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In G2 Health today: Don't let the sun go to your head: she's out to play havoc

+ Gavin Evans wonders about the possible link between Nick Leeson's traumatic fall from grace and his colon cancer

Death toll reaches 210 as Americans step up investigation into atrocities □ Defence secretary believes attacks were 'long planned'

US puts \$2m bounty on bombers

Gary Young in Washington and Lucy Hannan in Nairobi

THE United States announced a \$2 million reward yesterday for information leading to the conviction of the bombers of its embassies in Kenya and Tanzania.

Washington now has several hundred Americans on the ground in Nairobi and Dar-es-Salaam investigating the atrocity in which more than 200 people died, most of them African. More than 100 FBI agents are working with local investigators.

US officials hope that a security camera at the Tanzania embassy will yield some clues. It was pointed directly at the spot where the bomb exploded.

Tanzanian authorities yesterday announced the arrest of around a dozen suspects, including Sudanese and Iraqis. But the US state department spokeswoman played this down, saying a routine

roundup had been carried out. The death toll from the two bombings, which came almost simultaneously last Friday morning, rose to at least 210 yesterday with more than 5,000 injured. The bomb in Nairobi, which accounted for at least 200 of the dead, contained as much as 900 pounds of explosive.

A ceremony marking the return home of most of the American bodies is to be held on Thursday in Washington. Twelve Americans died, all in the Nairobi blast.

'Terror can never, will never, deter America from its purpose'

Madeleine Albright



containing the bomb there first drove to the main entrance and was sent by guards to the rear, where the

bomb exploded. The grim search through the rubble at the Kenyan site, led by Israeli rescue teams,

went on yesterday, but with hopes fading that a woman called Rose would be found alive. She was believed trapped in the lift shaft of the building behind the embassy that took the full force of the blast.

"Our dogs are indicating there is no sign of life," said an Israeli surgeon, Nahum Nesher, "but we have not stopped believing she could be alive."

He said the Israeli team had reached a room in the secretarial training college, which was housed in the tMundi building, and was bringing out bodies. "There were many women, leaning on their desks, in the sitting position,

crushed by the roof against the floor." At the city mortuary, waiting relatives and friends rushed towards the Red Cross van bringing in the latest cargo of dead, crushed beyond recognition.

President Clinton, speaking in Kentucky yesterday, said: "We must be strong in dealing with this. We must not be deterred by the threat of other actions."

He is to be at the airport when 11 of the 12 American bodies are flown into Washington from a US military base in Germany. The 12th, who was married to a Kenyan, will be buried in her adopted homeland.

Madeleine Albright, the US secretary of state, who announced the \$2 million (\$1.25 million) reward in Washington, said the money would go to any substantial information that could help convict "the cowards that committed this act".

Terrorism, she said, "can never, will never, deter America from its purpose or presence around the globe".

Such rewards successfully netted suspects in both the 1993 World Trade Centre bombing in New York and the shooting of two Central Intelligence Agency men near Washington the same year.

Kenyan grief, page 6

Sainsbury's links up with village shops

James Meikle and Roger Cowe

SUPERSTORE wars yesterday moved on to the village green with the announcement that rural shops have acquired an unlikely ally to help them stay in business, the supermarket chain Sainsbury's.

Village shopkeepers will be able to stock the company's own-brand products in a scheme designed to widen the range of goods, cut prices and increase profits. They will go shopping at the local Sainsbury's and quality like normal customers for the company's loyalty scheme to help subsidise discounts in their own stores.

The scheme's backers suggested the move might increase rural "home shopping", with customers abandoning their weekly supermarket run and letting village storekeepers collect and deliver their groceries instead.

The chance for supermarkets to preserve rather than undermine smaller stores comes after years of decline in the village shop, which is extinct in four out of 10 English parishes.

But there was concern that the move could herald a tightening of the supermarkets' stranglehold. The chains, whose plans for big out-of-town sites face stricter controls, are already challenging

town corner shops with smaller urban convenience stores and are strengthening their grip on petrol station forecourts. But Sainsbury's yesterday stressed that the latest move was the idea of village shop campaigners.

Richard Fry, trustee of the Village Retail Services Association, which asked for the trials, said: "This agreement heralds a major change in retailing thought. It shows major retailers are interested in saving the village shop and helping rural communities."

"This could change the way a lot of people do their shop-

'This could change the way a lot of people do their shopping'

ping. It has tremendous scope down the road in terms of utilising new technology."

David Clapham, a member of the Sainsbury's board, said: "Customers said they wanted our products near work, near home and in between. This is a real change in our organisation — allowing our products to be sold in non-Sainsbury's outlets."

Shopkeepers will pay supermarket prices for most products, but there will be bulk purchase offers and loyalty points available. The vil-



Brenda Erscott offering Sainsbury's products in her store in Halstock, Dorset. 'I am hoping this will boost trade,' she said

PHOTOGRAPH: TIM CUFF

lage shops will set their own prices.

Goods will not include perishables. Sainsbury's wants to avoid accusations that local meat and produce providers are being unfairly

undermined. It believes the links will help village consumers find speciality foods such as balsamic vinegar or saucers.

Among rural agencies and campaigning bodies, the

Council for the Protection of Rural England gave the most cautious endorsement. Gregor Hutcheon, its rural affairs officer, said: "It is not going to reduce the trend in loss of rural shops and post offices."

At the end of the day, you will have Sainsbury's brands wherever you are and wherever you go."

City analyst Tim Potter, of Merrill Lynch, suggested the move was "another nail in the coffin of cash and carry" while Booker, which supports the Happy Shopper label common in village stores, said wholesale specialists such as those were in a better position to serve independent shops.

Olive oil and balsamic vinegar offer sweet hope of survival

SAINSBURY'S turnover received a tiny boost yesterday as shoppers in a one-store Dorset village had the chance to buy the supermarket chain's own-brand products for the first time, writes Geoffrey Gibbs.

The shop and post office in Halstock has begun stocking Sainsbury's olive oil, balsamic vinegar, pasta and other selected items alongside its usual groceries and local butter and ham.

Monday is a quiet shopping day in Halstock (pop. 400) but the store owner, Brenda Erscott, was pleased with how the first day had gone. Milk, baked beans and saucea hearing the Sainsbury's name had gone from the shelves and she believed the lure of such products might keep customers sweet and pull in others who usually shop in Yeovil, six miles away. "I am hoping this will boost trade for me," she said.

Robert Wheeler, a shopper, agreed: "Anything that will get people using the shop move has got to be good for the village," he said. "This is the only amenity Halstock has got left. We have lost the pub and the shop has got to be there for the village. If that goes, we have had it."

In the early 90s the shop was forced to close and it was only the determination of villagers that enabled it to reopen. Mrs Erscott believes the scheme will go down well in places that are, like Halstock, ill-served by public transport.

There'll be a hot time on the old Beacons if Van and co have any say in it

Review

Tony Heath

Brecon Jazz Festival

FIFTEEN years on, the Brecon Jazz Festival has lost the all-too-predictable tag "New Orleans under the Beacons." Back in 1984 the

event was indeed mostly Basin Street and Banjos. Now the specialist music store set up in the Welsh market town has blossomed into a supermarket catering for tastes ranging from never-ending love affairs with the 12-bar blues to seekers of the truth as prescribed by effervescent modernists.

Van Morrison may not figure prominently in every lexicon of jazz greats. But he

pulled the crowds to pack Brecon's market hall, where earlier in the day wood carvers and second-hand book dealers were raking in the bonus provided by the first wave of some 50,000 people arriving for 24 hours of music and entertainment. There was even line dancing in Bethel Square, and a couple of samba bands.

Apart from Van the Man, the headline concerts of Dick

Hyman, a graduate of the Teddy Wilson school of piano playing, Michel Petruccianni, one of the brightest stars of the keyboard, and pianist Ahmad Jamal, invited investigation.

The tendency to strike the keys a hundred times when 30 would be enough seems to have taken root with Petruccianni since his first visit to Brecon six years ago.

Tenor saxophones came in threes at a relaxed gig in the

Canalside Theatre, when Scott Hamilton, Harry Allen and Ken Peplowski vied to produce the best blow.

The surprising onset of summer added brio to the open-air concerts. There were some 80 to choose from, offering a chance to check out the itinerant groups who came from far and wide. The Zenith Jazz and Blues Band from New South Wales led by trombonist John Edser, belted out 'Tin

Roof Blues and Blues for Jimmy Noone, a tribute which the late, great clarinetist the late, great clarinetist would have found appealing.

Cooler, musically and dramatically, was the gig indoors at the Castle Hotel. Joel Helms, a mainstream trombonist from New York, slid thoughtfully through Ray Noble's classic 'The Very Thought of You. On their annual visit to Brecon, the Krukke Mania Band from

Breda in Holland is now so integrated with the town that Guy Jones, a local trumpeter, is an honorary playing member.

From a nearer home, the Cardiff-based Mike Harries Root Doctors, a lively jazz-Creole-Cajun cocktail, took the palm for getting an audience on to its feet.

And to Brecon's ancient cathedral, Ethel Caffie-Austin and her gospel singers in-

duced several hundred to clap and sing along. A special concert to mark Humphrey Lytton's half-century as a band leader, a pig by Howard Alden, who is up there among the finest of jazz guitarists; Mark Latimer, a British pianist equally at home on a concert platform and in a marketplace overlooking the River Usk — Brecon offered almost too much choice. Never mind, there's always next year.

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Crowds lined the streets for the succession ceremony, but Prince Jefri (below), was absent TOP PHOTOGRAPH VINCENT THAM



The man just installed as Brunei's next leader has a colourful past and steps into a fraught future. **Nick Cumming-Bruce** reports



The Sultan looks on as Prince Billah kisses the hand of the queen at a key moment in the lavish ceremony at which he became next in line to rule Brunei

PHOTOGRAPH DAVID LOH

From the snooker hall to a sultan's throne

TO THE boom of cannon and the drone of Muslim prayers, a snooker-crazy 24-year-old former Oxford student with a passion for Bon Jovi became heir yesterday to the throne of the tiny, oil-rich and scandal-ridden sultanate of Brunei.

At a 75-minute investiture ceremony in Brunei's sprawling 1,788-room royal palace, Prince al-Muhtadee Billah Bolkiah heard an uncle read the proclamation from a silk scroll borne on a golden cushion, before receiving a jewel-encrusted kris, or dagger, putting him in line to become the 30th ruler of one of the world's last absolute monarchies and certainly its richest.

Until last year, Prince Billah enjoyed the carefree life of

a student at Oxford and sometime competitor at international snooker meets, with a fondness for soccer, badminton and rock music — all indulged under the assumed commoner's name of Omar Hassan to ward off unwanted attention.

Yesterday, before 4,000 royal relatives, dignitaries and diplomats in a cavernous palace hall with gold-painted walls, Prince Billah heard a 10-minute prayer, then kissed the hands of his 52-year-old father, Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, his mother, and the part-British former airline hostess who became his father's second wife.

Sporting a gold crown and a gold tunic in place of the natty waistcoats he donned for snooker, the sombre-looking prince climbed on to a

chariot-horn throne to be pulled through the rain-soaked streets of the Bruneian capital under the gaze of its pampered populace.

Sultan Hassanal, who turned out yesterday in military uniform complete with sword, has taken some care to give his son respectable Muslim credentials instead of the extravagant appetite for fast cars, casinos and call-girls reputedly indulged by some of the royal brothers.

Prince Billah, when still in his early teens, joined family members on a pilgrimage to Mecca, and his first year at Magdalen College was spent in a specially designed course of Islamic studies along with the history and culture of Brunei. On the eve of his investiture, he spent nearly three hours at prayers in Bru-

nei's mosque. But after two years of studies, it seems he now finds himself plunged into local palace politics and the arts of running a semi-feudal sultanate blessed with lavish wealth but buffeted by scandal and the backlash of Asia's economic turmoil.

Conspicuous by his absence at yesterday's ceremony was Prince Billah's uncle Jefri. He is locked in a row with the Sultan, who has ordered an investigation into murky financial transactions by which Jefri is rumoured to have lost £10 billion.

In the meantime, he has stripped Jefri of control of Brunei's flagship holding company, Amadeo, with a portfolio of investments that ranges from London's Dorchester Hotel, acquired for \$40 million in the mid-1980s,

to Asprey's, the Bond Street jewellers, the New York Palace Hotel, and huge telecommunications assets.

The Sultan has stripped Jefri of his post as head of the Brunei Investment Agency, controlling vast overseas assets that are the sultanate's insurance against the day when its oil income dwindles.

Few details would normally emerge in public in this secretive sultanate, which gives its citizens free education and health care but no say in government, and has been run by royal decree under a state of emergency ever since the first stirrings of democracy in 1963 brought an abortive anti-monarchist revolt.

Local officials conceal the secrets of the government or royal purse — there is no way to distinguish between the

two — under the threat of imprisonment.

But Jefri, now in the United States, denies he left Amadeo crippled by debts and is warning he may yet contest the actions against him.

He voices respect for his brother but complains darkly that reactionary Muslim influences are "becoming entrenched at all levels of the government."

A statement released by an associate last week, and dismissed as nonsense by diplomats, spoke of shadowy Libyan and Iranian advisers taking control and working against him.

"I do not seek a fight at this time," Jefri said. "I shall, however, defend vigorously my position and the interests of my family if forced to do so."

\$40bn and 564 chandeliers

When Crown Prince Billah inherits the throne of the oil-rich sultanate, he will become the richest man in the world.

The Sultan's portfolio includes property, telecommunications and oil holdings estimated to be worth a total of \$40 billion (£25 billion).

A compact kingdom on the island of Borneo with a population of only 226,000, Brunei has gushing oil reserves which earn the crown \$4 million a day.

The Sultan lives in a \$300 million, gilded palace with 1,788 rooms — including

257 toilets, 564 chandeliers and five swimming pools.

The family owns the Dorchester Hotel and Asprey's, the royal jewellers, in London and the New York Palace Hotel.

The former Miss USA, Shannon Marketic, is suing the Sultan and his brother, Prince Jefri, for \$90 million allegedly for holding her prisoner in his palace. They deny the claim.

Founded by a pirate in the 15th century, the dynasty accepted British protection in the 1880s. In 1984 Brunei gained independence from Britain.

Jail for parents who caged girl in 'appalling' room for 15 months

David Ward

A MOTHER and father who caged their infant daughter in her bedroom by boarding up the windows and door were each jailed for six months for child cruelty yesterday.

Cardiff crown court heard that the couple kept their daughter in "appalling conditions" at their home in Caerphilly, near Cardiff, between the ages of three and five. When police and social workers finally broke through a barricade of wooden planks, she was found whimpering and begging for a drink.

Asked why she had treated her child in this way, the mother, who cannot be named for legal reasons, alleged: "I wouldn't keep the worst baby in the world in these conditions but what can I do? She just crawls everywhere. What's a mother supposed to do?"

Jeann Bennett, prosecuting, said the girl was not taken into care until 15 months after being discovered in the room by social worker Elaine Thomas, when she visited the family in May 1996.

"The door to the bedroom had been removed and wooden boards had been nailed across it up to the height of six feet," he said. "Conditions were filthy — in contrast with the rest of the house which was very well appointed. The room contained only a dirty mattress and no toys. Human faeces of some age was smeared on the walls and the room stank."

Mr Bennett said the child's

room had returned to its original form," said Mr Bennett. "The doors and windows were again boarded up and the room smelled heavily of urine and faeces. The child was in the room, whimpering and crying 'drink, drink'."

"Again there was only a filthy mattress and no toys. She was dressed in a babygown suit which had been turned inside out so she couldn't take it off. She was wearing a

of gross emotional deprivation I have ever met in my 18 years in the job." He also criticised social workers for not taking the girl into care when they first found her.

The couple burst into tears as Judge Christopher Morton jailed them. "You caged your daughter in that room and left her in a very distressed state," he told them. "She suffered profound and prolonged neglect at your hands. But you are intellectually limited and your other children need you, so the sentence is much shorter than it would otherwise have been."

Last night the Caerphilly county borough council social services department blamed a previous local administration, the former Mid Glamorgan county council, for not acting to protect the girl. Chris Lawrence, director of social services, said: "A report produced earlier this year referred to a management culture in one district of the former Mid Glamorgan which discouraged front-line social workers from pursuing child protection inquiries."

Caerphilly county borough council is having to deal with the legacy of these problems.

'This is the worst case of emotional deprivation I have met in my 18 years in the job' — consultant paediatrician

brothers and sisters were kept in comfort. "It seems the parents singled out their youngest daughter for this treatment and she was made into a scapegoat." After the first visit, the couple made moves to improve matters, removing the boards and installing a baby gate. Social workers continued to call for six months but then visits stopped for eight months.

"When social worker Marlene Anderson visited the home in August 1997 she found the

nappy which she had soiled." Shortly before her parents were arrested in August 1997, the girl began to attend a special school where teachers reported that she would beg for or steal food and could speak only in sentences of a few words. Mr Bennett said she was now with foster parents and could speak normally.

Dewi Evans, a consultant paediatrician at Singleton Hospital in Swansea, told the court: "This is the worst case

NHS hit by new licence-holder's big price rise for drug

continued from page 1 patients and clinicians alike for more than 30 years."

But Novartis could not put the price up unless it dropped the price of another drug it supplies to the NHS. Under the pharmaceutical price regulation scheme, drug companies are guaranteed a certain

level of profit from their NHS drugs, but cannot exceed a limit which is set as a proportion of their turnover.

Novartis, as the NHS's fifth biggest supplier, has more than enough profit-making drugs and easily reaches its NHS ceiling. But Alliance, as a small firm with far fewer

NHS drugs, has not, and so it is able to put the price up dramatically.

John Dawson, managing director of Alliance Pharmaceuticals, said he needed to raise the price of Syntometrine. "I have had to put it at a price that makes it economic for running this business."

"You have to look at £1.40 — what it buys in today's world. Because the price of this drug didn't alter for so many years it had become so far out of its true value. What can you buy for £1.40? A hamburger? Syntometrine is good value for money for what it does."

Studies show the number of suicides rises on sunny days. Psychologists suggest this may be due to the realisation that even a bright day doesn't guarantee happiness.

All hot and bothered — remedies for summer ills

Health, G2 page 10

You're more likely to change your spouse than change your bank account.

- If your other half cost you a fortune on your credit cards, would you do something about it? Yes/No
- If your other half wrote you stropic letters and charged you for them, would you do something about it? Yes/No
- If your other half didn't let you have any contact with them at night time, would you do something about it? Yes/No
- If your other half didn't let you near your hard earned cash for 3 months, would you do something about it? Yes/No
- Does your bank account presently do any of the above? Yes/No

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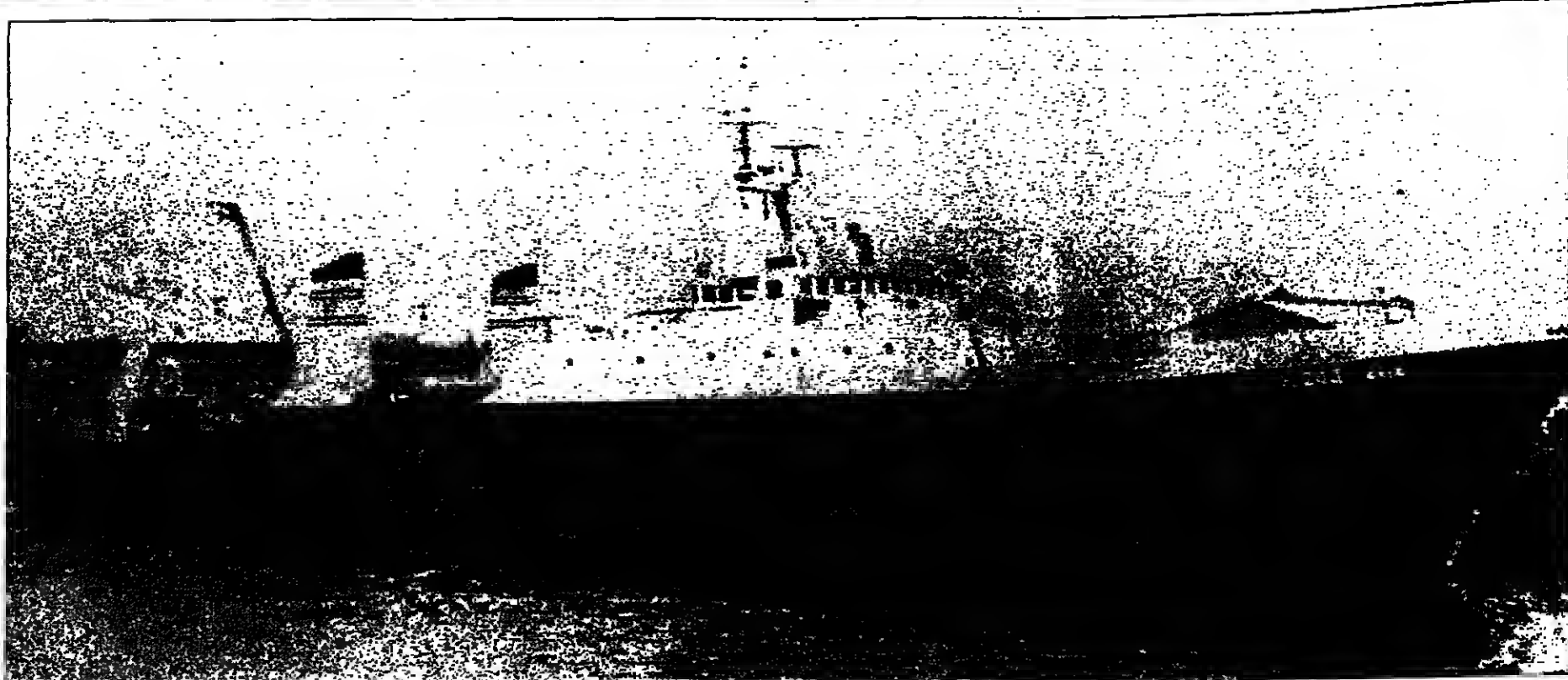
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Martin Wainwright on the mystery of the Gaul

Subs move in on wreck of 'spy ship'



The Gaul pictured shortly before she left on her final voyage. The 1,100 ton 'supertrawler' sank off northern Norway in 1974

PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN JONES

MIDGET submarines inched their way closer to the wreck of the trawler Gaul last night, amid continuing speculation from relatives who have fought for 24 years to solve the mystery of the alleged spy ship's loss.

The operation was delayed when snagged fishing nets festooned over the stern of the

1,100 ton 'supertrawler' last night, one of three cable-operated submarines. The Marine Accident Investigation Branch said that 'extreme care' was being exercised to avoid losing the craft in 850ft of icy water off northern Norway.

The Transport Department, which commissioned the £2 million survey earlier this year after the wreck was

found and filmed by Channel 4, denied that official disassembling was still continuing. The producer of the award-winning documentary, Norman Fenton, said that 'a lot of spin' was being put on the official expedition, with announcements of the Gaul being 'discovered' and the 'first pictures' coming up from the seabed.

A spokeswoman for the

MAIB said: 'The wreck had to be looked for - it wasn't marked by a buoy bobbing on the surface or anything like that.' But Mr Fenton, whose amateur 250,000 dive based on Findus trawlers' record of net snags achieved what the Defence Ministry claimed was impossible, said: 'We gave them co-ordinates to three decimal places which they used in their tender for this

survey. That located the Gaul to within six feet.'

Mr Fenton added that the net problem had been clearly identified by Channel 4 and its partners, the Norwegian TV channel NRK, and that initial government announcements about the Mansal 18 survey had said that the nets would be cut away before close quarters examination of the ship. The MAIB said that

the operation was dealing with problems as they arose, but would provide a thorough picture of the Gaul, which was lost in February 1974.

Film from the Mansal 18 submarines yesterday showed the sinking white name of the trawler and the eerie imminence of a ship supposedly overwhelmed by extreme weather. Windows on the bridge are unbroken and the

trawler lies virtually undamaged on the seabed, like a child's model ship.

Two relatives of the 36 victims of the disaster watched on board the survey ship, run by Aberdeen-based salvors Dronk, as the video images were relayed to the surface.

Aubrey Bowles, whose 22-year-old brother Ronald was lost with the Gaul, said that he hoped one of the submersi-

bles would get into the ship to settle the question of whether the crew went down with her, overwhelmed by some sudden disaster. Mr Bowles, aged 53, from Wallsend, Tyne-side, said: 'We were worried but now we're here and we've identified the wreck. It is with a bit of satisfaction that we are now maybe getting close to the truth of what really happened 24 years ago.'

'We're sure she was scuttled by the Russians. Look at her. That isn't a ship smashed under by a storm'

JENNIFER Griffin has followed the mystery of the Gaul for almost half her life, with all the intensity of the Government's videoing submersibles which are now closing in on the wreck, writes Martin Wainwright.

She has felt one thing above all since her brother John went down with the unsinkable flagship of Hull's fishing fleet at the age of 23: anger. 'And angry how I still feel today,' she says.

'It's been a cover-up all along and it still is,' Mrs Griffin insists, with the certainty of someone who has seen a government lie suddenly acknowledged after 24 years of denials. Speaking from her home on Hull's Bransholme estate, where many trawling

families have settled, she said: 'It was Labour in power then, and they're back now and they're not going to want it all to come out ever.'

'But we feel sure that ship was boarded and scuttled by the Russians who knew what she was up to. Look at her, hardly damaged, just one crack in a window, gently settled on the seabed. That isn't a ship knocked sideways by the weather or smashed under by a storm.'

Mrs Griffin, aged 53, remembers Barry Sheene, the Government QC at the 1974 inquiry, firmly admonishing relatives for nonsense about spy missions; and William Rodgers reassuring John Prescott and his two fellow Hull MPs that the British

trawler fleet had no involvement in spying.

Lord Rodgers now acknowledges he was 'misled'; but the retraction stops at 1973, when trawler-spying is supposed to have ended, and the Gaul is officially unconnected with snooping.

'Fish,' says Mrs Griffin. 'And what they show us now won't end things, even if they do get in and find human remains.'

'What'll that explain? What'll they do? Count them all? Make her an official grave? No thank you. That would do just what they want - stop anyone going to have a look at her ever again.'

Mrs Griffin's brother, John Heywood, was not meant to be on the trawler, but found himself well out in sea when he woke up after a night out drinking with his pal, Brian Dudding, whose sister, Carol Radford, was on the enterprise which found the ship.

The two women do not intend to shut up. 'We're not giving up until they come clean,' says Mrs Griffin.



The shipbuilder's plate of the Gaul wreck, which is lying in 850ft of water

Undercurrents of suspicion

February 8, 1974: Gaul makes daily 10am report to Hull owners. Later seen in blizzard by one of 32 other ships on North Cape Bank. Fails to make informal 4.30pm report.

February 11: Search starts. Size of operation - led by aircraft carrier HMS Hermes and diverting whole of Nato exercise Squadron taking place off Lofoten Islands - leads Soviets to believe Nato nuclear submarine lost.

February 15: Search called off.

May: Norwegian whaler finds Gaul lifebelt off Lofoten. Plankton tests cast doubt on how belt reached position where found.

August: Hull's three MPs, including John Prescott, assured by Labour defence minister William Rodgers that British trawlers were not involved in spying.

September 17: Inquiry opens in Hull. Government witnesses deny spying allegations. Police quieten protests.

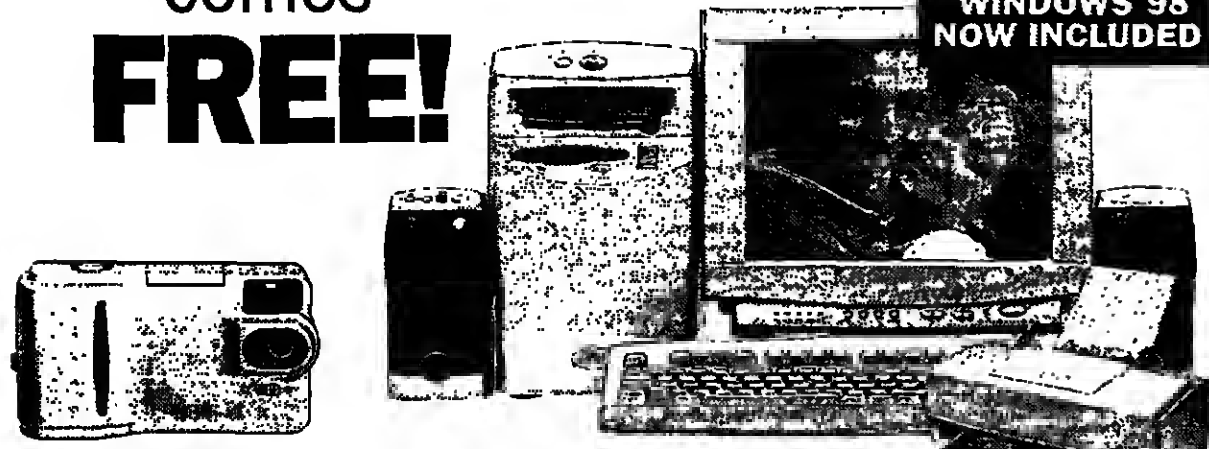
November 21: Inquiry report concludes Gaul foundered in exceptional weather.

1977: Liferaft cover from Gaul found by Norwegian vessel but not revealed by British authorities.

January 1998: Government announces official examination of wreck and admits trawlers were used for spying pre-1973. Lord Rodgers says he was misled. Retired fishermen claim to have taken photographs for MoD, including alleged first news of 1992 Cuban missile convoys.

July 1998: Mansal 18 research vessel equipped with three remotely operated submersibles arrives for £2 million examination of wreck.

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Farmers reach for their guns as mink run wild in New Forest

Sarah Hall

THE animal rights activists who released 6,000 mink at the weekend have found their cause turning into a nightmare. Far from readily adjusting to a life of freedom, the mink are befuddled, behaving true to their nature and wreaking havoc.

Since members of the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) climbed over the perimeter fence of Crow Hill fur farm in Hampshire and smashed cages and cut wire, reports of mink killing birds of prey at an owl sanctuary in the New Forest are accompanied by rumours of their lashing out at cats and dogs.

The mink are paying the price for the activists' supposedly humane behaviour. 'I will shoot them on sight,' vowed Bruce Berry, owner of the New Forest Owl Sanctuary, which has already claimed at least 12 birds.

Of the 4,000 mink which have ventured beyond the fur farm near Ringwood, up to 2,000 have been shot, run over or caught in traps, with one farmer claiming to have blasted 100.

Public feeling is running high against the predator, which is threatening 80

square miles of the countryside. The widely held belief that, to quote Mr Berry, 'they are pests, and there is nothing you can do but shoot them', has caused Hampshire police to set up a 'mink desk' helping to deal with the concerns of villagers, who jammed their switchboard.

Yet the ALF, which describes itself as 'not so much an organisation as a state of mind' and condones damage to properties, was unrepentant yesterday.

'I know many of them are going to die, but at least they will have had a taste of freedom,' said spokesman Robin Webb.

He added: 'If they had stayed in the fur farm, every single one of them would have been killed. And the ones who survive will hopefully live their lives out in a natural environment.'

He claimed that the mink - about 20in long with sharp teeth and aggressive temperaments - could adapt perfectly to life in the wild.

He denied that the ecological balance would be disturbed by a ferocious carnivore which, not being native to this country, is unchecked by any predator.

The group's stance was defended by the anti-fur pressure group People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (Peta), which said: 'Any life outside of a cage is infinitely more preferable to a life in confinement.'

It added: 'If they are run over or are liable to preda-

diet of birds, eggs, fish and small mammals to kill calves or foals if particularly hungry.

Forest keeper Howard Taylor, who patrols 10,000 acres of the New Forest, said: 'Whoever let these animals out, if they think of themselves as environmental warriors they should have thought of the environmental consequences of releasing such a vicious predator into this delicate ecosystem.'

'They're at the top of the food chain, and the effect will be felt all the way down. It could be quite dramatic.'

The pressure group Respect for Animals questioned the ALF's action, given the Government's commitment - reiterated last week by animal welfare minister Elliot Morley - to bring an end to fur farming, despite a private member's bill on the issue having been dropped this session.

'The campaign is almost won in this country,' said campaign director Mark Glover, pointing to the reduction of fur farms from 80 in the mid-1980s to 15. 'I'm the last person to defend the Government unnecessarily, but they have repeatedly pledged to ban [the farming]. To carry out this sort of activity seems quite extraordinary.'

Hindley play forced to switch venue

Dan Gledhill Arts Correspondent

APLAY about the Moors murders by Myra Hindley was dropped by one of the Edinburgh Fringe Festival's leading venues after sponsors threatened to withdraw their backing.

Calder's Cream Ale, which is sponsoring the Gilded Balloon, one of the 'big three' fringe venues, thought that Myra and Ian's story was too outrageous. The next day the play, performed by the Hull-based Northern Theatre Company and School of Performing Arts, moved to the Assembly Rooms where it is being sponsored by the Observer.

The writer Diane Dubois said: 'It's ironic because the play is not a biographical interpretation of the Moors murders but an examination of how we make sense of traumatic events. I don't think that sponsors should get involved in artistic activities. I wouldn't attempt to dictate financial policy.'

A spokesperson for Calder's, which is owned by Carlsberg-Tetley, said: 'We had concerns about Myra and Ian and we are comfortable with it being moved. Calder's is committed to the light-hearted side of the fringe.'

Calder's was reacting to press reports about the unseen play - the Sun called it 'twisted and sick' - and in a

plea to the venue's managers from Margaret Watson of the organisation Justice for Victims (Scotland).

She wrote: 'I would like to appeal to you to think again about staging this play. To think deeply about the effect this play will have on those who have suffered more than enough pain and anguish at evil Hindley's hands... Please put Hindley's innocent victims and their families before greed.'

Karen Eken, artistic director of the Gilded Balloon, replied: 'I believe that it is very important for a theatre company to be able to perform a piece of writing that can be controversial but has a valid point to make just as

any newspaper or journalist feels they have the right to. How are we going to try to make society better without questioning it?'

Earlier this year another play became embroiled in a dispute over the content of a fringe performance. Owen O'Neill had been booked to perform his acclaimed one-man show Off My Face at the Manchester Irish Festival in March.

But when the festival's principle sponsors Guinness realised that the show was about his struggle with alcoholism, they demanded that it be dropped.

Edinburgh Festival, G2, pages 8-9

A taste of the future



A family tucks into what the Ramblers' Association yesterday described as a 'picnic of the future' — on a traffic island in the middle of Vauxhall Cross, south London — after it emerged that the National Farmers' Union has urged restrictions on picnics in the countryside. PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN ARQUES

Woman who killed violent husband put on probation

Gerard Seaman

A WOMAN who stabbed her husband to death after enduring almost a quarter of a century of sexual abuse and violence was yesterday put on probation at the Old Bailey.

Diane Clark, aged 42, finally snapped when Graham Clark, aged 46, tried to throw her out of the home she shared with him and their five children in Farncombe, Surrey. As he leaned into the loft to pull out her suitcases, she stabbed him in the back with a kitchen knife.

The court had heard Mrs Clark described as a placid character who continually covered herself with long sleeves and sunglasses to try to hide the abuse she suffered. Placing her on probation for three years, Judge Gerald Gordon spoke of the "smoking fuse of provocation" which Mrs Clark had laboured under before she let go and behaved "totally out of character".

Women's groups welcomed the sentence and the Crown's decision to accept a reduced charge of manslaughter.



'A woman who has suffered continuous abuse and violence has finally broken down and killed her partner. It is good to see that the judge has shown mercy and understanding for Diane Clark (left)' Women's Aid spokeswoman

Mrs Clark's defence counsel, Peter Feinberg QC, said she had endured violence and sexual abuse since the beginning of their marriage. She had been taking prescribed drugs since 1977 to help cope with anxiety and she was devastated by what she had done.

"This was a marriage beset by bouts of, at first, drunken violence and forced sex, and towards the end, violence and forced sex without even the drink," he said.

Steven Kramer QC, prosecuting, accepted Mrs Clark's guilty plea to manslaughter and offered no evidence on the murder charge. Judge Gordon said a trial would have achieved nothing.

She married Clark, a neighbour, after only two months of courtship. He had a violent temper, convictions for assault, and was usually out of work. Mrs Clark supported their children by working as a hairdresser and waitress.

Jail chief halts computer plan

Alan Travis
Home Affairs Editor

ONE of Whitehall's biggest and most complex private finance projects — the £500 million computerisation of prisons — was suddenly halted yesterday amid fears that it could get release dates wrong.

More than two years work has gone into the scheme which affects more than 2,500 staff and involves the computerisation of much of the Prison Service's work including inmates' records, court appearances, sentence and accommodation planning, finance and personnel. The project, codenamed Quantum, is a flagship of the Treasury's Private Finance Initiative. It was planned to take more than 10 years to implement.

It is believed that among official concerns is the risk that the computer system might not even get right the dates when inmates should be released leaving open the danger of compensation claims.

Last night Richard Tilt, director general of the Prison Service, said he had ordered that work be halted for up to six months for a "radical and deep-rooted examination of all aspects of the project".

"This has been a very difficult decision. My board members and I have had to balance the need for new information technology equipment with our duty to safeguard public funds," said Mr Tilt.

"We must satisfy ourselves

now that the project will deliver what we want. At the moment I am not satisfied this is so."

The decision follows a governors' revolt after they discovered that they would no longer be managing their own secretaries who were to be transferred to a new Service Delivery Directorate.

The Quantum project has failed to win many friends. For some it means consultation documents 400 to 600 pages long written in an obscure language which talks of "accessing telephony equipment" when it means picking up the telephone.

It has been run in partnership with two private companies, a consortium named Prism, which includes the SEMA computer company, and EDS Ltd. Both firms were told yesterday of the decision.

David Roddan, general secretary of the Prison Governors' Association, said: "It is essential we take stock of what we actually need to carry out the basic functions of the Prison Service. I cannot believe that we need to spend half a billion pounds."

In the Prison Service annual report published last week Mr Tilt said: "In a business like ours that has grown so rapidly in the last four years it is vital that we have the best possible technology to support us. The Quantum project, designed to improve the way the Service handles information on prisoners, personnel and finance, will ensure that we achieve this."

Struck off doctors risk losing merit pay

Sarah Bosseley
Health Correspondent

HOSPITAL consultants who are struck off the medical register for malpractice or get a criminal conviction will risk having merit money removed from their salaries by the new awards committee, the Department of Health announced yesterday.

Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, promised to look into the possibility of removing consultant surgeon James Wisheart's award following the Bristol babies case earlier this year. The top award, A+, can double a consultant's salary to over £112,000.

Yesterday, the promised crackdown on merit payments was announced by the

Health Minister, Alan Milburn, who pledged that the system would become fairer and more transparent. The present 35-strong committee, dominated by 25 consultants, will be slimmed down to 14 and the dominant place will be taken by NHS employers and patient groups.

There will be just five consultants on the panel, which is known as the Advisory Committee on Distinction Awards.

The changes were being made because of widespread concern about cronyism — fears that consultants were rewarding their friends — secrecy and the small number of awards that reach women and doctors from ethnic minorities.

Revelations about Mr Wisheart's award, which he received while his conduct

was under investigation, increased suspicions.

The Government was committed to rewarding merit, said Mr Milburn. "The current scheme fails that test. These proposals have been drawn up to ensure that the award is fair, open and properly geared to the needs of a modern health service."

"Since the scheme costs the NHS over £100 million a year it must command public confidence. It needs to modernise in response to the criticism that it is part of an old pals act which does not bestow awards fairly."

The committee will have the power to review and if necessary withdraw the awards following criminal convictions, GMC findings, disciplinary action or findings of the new Commission for Health Improvements.

The department's legal advisers are still searching for a way to remove Mr Wisheart's award.

Consultants who have done well in hard-pressed areas of the NHS will be as eligible as those who star in the more academic settings of the high teaching hospitals. Under the present system, the latter are more likely to be rewarded.

Malcolm Currow, of the Bristol Heart Children's Action Group which represents the parents of children who died in operations performed by Mr Wisheart and his colleague, Jazardan Dhasman, welcomed the changes.

"It is unacceptable in this day and age to have a committee made up of primarily a large number of doctors giving each other merit awards which they then keep. In this case, to be given a merit

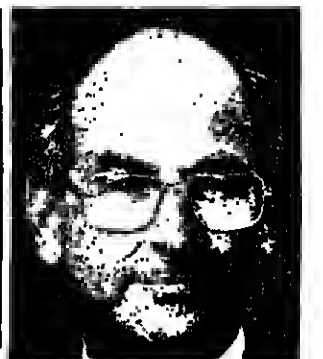
award while under investigation for the events of Bristol seems absolutely ludicrous," he said on BBC radio.

But he added: "While we cannot necessarily see how any retrospective salary cut, I think it is important that the future is looked at."

"As Mr Wisheart has been found guilty of professional misconduct, at least the merit award element of his pay, which is about £35,000, should be reduced."

Peter Hawker, joint deputy chairman of the BMA central consultants and specialists committee, said he welcomed moves to make the system more open and fair.

But Dr Hawker added: "Contrary to what ministers have said, distinction awards are not regarded as a right by consultants; nor are they bonus payments. They are part



Surgeon James Wisheart: Merit award sparked row

of the consultants remuneration scheme and we shall be discussing with ministers how best to ensure that the money available is fairly distributed."

Leeson's operation for cancer brought forward

Helen Carter

NICK Leeson was recovering in a Singapore hospital yesterday after an operation to remove a cancerous tumour from his colon was carried out two days early.

The jailed futures trader had been due to have surgery today, but it was brought forward to Sunday because he was suffering abdominal pain and sickness. Part of his colon and part of his large intestine were removed.

Leeson was diagnosed last week as having colon cancer which has spread to lymph nodes.

After the operation at Changi general hospital, a British High Commission official who visited him said he was awake and able to talk.

His London-based solicitor, Stephen Pollard, said in a statement that he understood from the High Commission "that the surgeon considers the operation to have gone well. There are no plans for any of Mr Leeson's family to visit him immediately."

He said it was not yet known if further operations would be necessary, but doctors would be assessing the in the next few days whether further operations were necessary.

Leeson, aged 31, was jailed for 6½ years for fraud in 1995 after he lost \$850 million gambling on Far East financial markets and broke Barings merchant bank.

After his cancer was diagnosed he was moved to a secure ward at the hospital from Changi prison hospital.

His Singapore lawyer, John Koh, has launched an appeal on medical and compassionate grounds for Leeson to be allowed to complete his sentence in a British jail, but under Singapore law his sentence can be commuted only by President Ong Teng Cheong.

The process may be speeded



Nick Leeson... had early surgery because he was suffering from abdominal pain

up in view of the serious nature of his condition.

It is highly unusual for someone of Leeson's age to suffer from this type of cancer. At the weekend it emerged that Leeson's father, William, aged 58, has cancer of the blood, which killed Leeson's mother, Anne.

Mr Leeson senior, a retired plasterer of Watford, Hertfordshire, is too sick to travel

to Singapore to see his son. "We know it is serious, very serious," he told the Sunday Telegraph.

"Nick has got to fight, and Nick will fight; he is a lot like his dad and mother in that respect. But it would make life so much easier for us if he was in prison over here."

The family hope his sister Sarah, aged 21, will fly to Singapore this month.



Today's dapper Avenger... Uma Thurman with her E-type Jaguar in a film scene

Avengers bypass critics

Janine Gibson on a blockbuster expected to leave cinemagoers shaken and stirred

IF NO one else connected with The Avengers can feel proud when it finally opens on Friday at cinemas around the world, at least the public relations team should be popping the corks.

Despite no preview screenings, no celebrity premiere and the apparent exclusiveness of the film's stars, The Avengers is going great guns in the advance publicity box office.

The film's distributor, Warner Brothers, took the rare decision not to let the critics in before the public. "It smacks of desperation," said a rival yesterday.

Restricting criticism will not necessarily hurt the movie's opening weekend.

The Avengers has generated an extraordinary level of pre-launch press coverage considering no one has seen it and the stars are incommunicado.

A press officer in Warner Distribution's London headquarters admitted yesterday that the team had been gearing up "for most of the year", but "doing more and more as

the release date approaches". The British broadsheet newspapers have carried 15 separate features about The Avengers since August.

Plus there is the small matter of roughly a dozen magazine covers, a limited edition PVC bra (called the Sex-A-Peel), a special line of clothes in Miss Selfridge, and a top 10 single.

And why let the absence of a cat-suited Uma Thurman or a Savile Row suited Ralph Fiennes spoil a good party?

The lack of a premiere did not deter Warner from throwing an Avengers party last night at the Leopard Lounge in Fulham Broadway, west London.

Around 600 celebrities from the worlds of fashion and music were dressed in pin-stripe or leather to "Be Bold, Be Brave, Be Steed or Peel", as the invitation instructed.

Unfortunately, the nearest guest list got to an Avengers star was Joseph Fiennes — brother of Ralph.

The carefully constructed Warner Brothers campaign began in January when two

pictures of a leathered-up Ms Thurman were circulated to the press. These were given out "much earlier than you normally would do to build anticipation" says the press officer.

Jan George, WB director of marketing, protests he has not engineered coverage that interest was at fever pitch already.

"The film was shot here, so there was a lot of stuff that was breaking from the set. It was unusual because we don't distribute a lot of films which have been shot in the UK."

Theo of course there's the popularity of the TV series.

"We're not generating interest, we're trying to hold it back. Our job on these type of films is just to control it because everyone's interested."

Genius or folly, Warner's has certainly held its nerve.

A rival PR believes it to be genius. "Even if the film is the next Citizen Kane, it will get bad reviews here because The Avengers is part of the British cultural heritage. On the understanding that even if you'd created the best film of all time you're going to get a slagging, it's probably worth getting the media a little bit upset by not releasing it to critics."

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Embassy bombing aftermath

Grief unites Kenyans as toll mounts

David Gough in Nairobi

AS VOLUNTEERS and rescue teams continued yesterday to dig their way through the devastation caused by the bomb attack in central Nairobi, the people of Kenya set about coming to terms with the single worst act of violence in their history.

The attack, which came at 10.35 on Friday morning, is now known to have killed more than 180 people and injured 5,000. It is believed that 100 are still missing.

Nairobi University students marched to the site of the blast yesterday, singing "Who has made this bomb, and why have they attacked us?"

Seferinus Otho, one of the students, said he hoped something positive might yet come out of the tragedy. "I think this will bring the people of Kenya together," he said.

In the rubble of the Ufundi Co-operative building, which bore the brunt of the blast, Israeli and French emergency teams continued digging.

Lieutenant-Colonel Ofer Lerner of the Israeli team said the smell of decomposing corpses was getting worse by the hour.

A woman known as Rose, who was believed to have been the last person left alive in the building, was said to have made contact with an Israeli team in the early hours of yesterday morning, but no word had been heard from her since.

A French rescue worker said Rose was almost certainly dead. "Maybe there are others still inside that we have not yet heard," he said, "but frankly I don't think it."

On Sunday a team of Israeli engineers emerged from the Co-operative Bank House with Grace Odida and her son Gabriel, aged nine. Their escape was widely lauded as a miracle. But a senior Red Cross worker told the Guardian that

the pair had only entered the building after the bomb exploded, and that Ms Odida had been leaving it at regular intervals to fetch food and water from the volunteers outside.

Samuel Nguni, who was rescued from the building on Saturday night, yesterday spoke about his ordeal from his hospital bed. He said he had lost track of time. "An hour seemed like a day."

Outside the hospital, relatives were still poring over lists of the casualties posted on the wall, a now familiar sight at Nairobi's hospitals. People unable to find their relations are told to look in the city mortuary, choked with 107 victims of the attack.

On Saturday, Beatrice Odhiambo identified the body of her husband Timothy. Yesterday she was back at the mortuary to arrange to take the body for burial. His death leaves Mrs Odhiambo and their four children without any means of support.

"Only God knows what we will do now," she said.

Relatives waited as bodies were delivered throughout the day. The Rev John Mungai spent his third consecutive day waiting to identify his daughter Margaret, aged 20, who was in the Ufundi building when it collapsed.

"There is no more hope for her," he said. "Each night I dream of her, and she is crying for help, but there is no one to help her."

As he spoke, a Red Cross truck arrived at the morgue, carrying yet more bodies. Mr Mungai broke away to join the throng of distraught relatives as they pushed and shoved to see who was inside.

A Red Cross worker opened the back of the truck and looked down on the crowd before him. Reaching into the vehicle he pulled out a single white shoe and waved it solemnly in the air, waiting for someone to recognise it.



A US Air Force member is overcome as he waits for the coffin of 11 Americans, being flown to Germany and then to Andrews Air Force base in Washington. PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN MCCONNICO

Congress cut corners on mission safety, says expert

Gary Young in Washington

ALACK of political will and congressional oversight after US embassies in Kuwait and Beirut were bombed along with a marine barracks in Beirut, blamed Congress and the state department for failing to follow recommendations he made 13 years ago.

Neither of the embassies bombed on Friday met standards outlined on his list, nor had they been placed on a state department priority list for a security upgrade.

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national support eroded over time," Mr Inman said. "But I also think State [the state department], as their budget pressures got higher, cut back on what they requested."

The under-secretary of state, Thomas Pickering, said that congressional representatives who originally rebuffed President Bill Clinton's demands for money to improve security worldwide had been trying to make

amends since the bombings. US embassies are subject to 30,000 threats annually, Mr Pickering said, and staff in each embassy have "to review their security situation as a matter of record each year."

Mr Inman's commission had recommended that US embassies should be set back 75ft from the street, surrounded by walls and be far more heavily fortified. He believes the changes

were not made because of a lack of political will after the bombings subsided in the late 1980s, and economic considerations.

"A good many years transpired without embassies being attacked and support for the programme clearly eroded. That, and getting down to a balanced budget,"

The secretary of state, Madeleine Albright, said that all embassies built since 1985 have conformed

to the standards called for by Mr Inman's commission. "We have also tried in a systematic way to upgrade the embassies around the world by making sure that the perimeters are secure,"

she said. "There was a lot of work done on the embassy in Nairobi, but we cannot move every embassy or location in the world now. We don't have the money or the resources to do that."

Hijacking links Rwanda to Congo rebels

Howard French in Bujumbura

NEW DETAILS emerging from the hijacking of a commercial jet last week in Congo suggest that the country's eastern neighbour, Rwanda, has strongly backed, and perhaps actively led, efforts to bring down the government of President Laurent Kabila.

The hijacked plane was used on Tuesday to fly rebel troops from the west across Congo to the east, where they opened a second front in the insurrection against Mr Kabila.

In an account of the boldest rebel operation in the week of insurrection, the Congo's official radio station on Sunday morning, a Nigerian commercial pilot said he had flown the commandeered plane. After take-off from the eastern rebel-held city of

Goma, he said he was ordered to land in the Rwandan capital, Kigali, to refuel.

In the cockpit with him throughout the flight, directing the operation at gunpoint, the pilot said, was James Kabarebe, the Rwandan commander who is widely believed to have led the rebel armies that defeated the long-time dictator, Mobutu Sese Seko, and installed Mr Kabila in power in Kinshasa, the Congo capital, 15 months ago.

Until recently, when Mr Kabila dismissed him in the midst of a growing rift with Rwanda, Commander Kabarebe was on loan from that country as the interim chief of staff of the new Congolese army being assembled by Mr Kabila.

"If the pilot's story holds up, this has all the markings of a world-class double-cross," a European diplomat said. "Kabila depended upon the Rwandans so completely

that they know his situation inside and out. Now they are using that knowledge against him."

The Nigerian pilot, Raymond Gbang, is an employee of the Congolese company Air Atlantic, whose passenger jet happened to be in Goma when the rebels seized the city.

Mr Gbang said that not one

military base at Kitona, south-west of Kinshasa, where the arriving rebels exchanged fire with troops stationed at the base.

The pilot said Cmdr Kabarebe had been accompanied on his aircraft by at least 180 soldiers, each with his own assault rifle, and by crates of weapons. Another aircraft

'Kabila depended upon Rwandans so much they know his situation inside out. They are using that against him'

— as reported earlier — but three jets had flown on Tuesday in the surprise operation to the western city of Kitona, where the rebels quickly opened a second front in the insurrection.

Mr Gbang said Cmdr Kabarebe led operations as the jets landed at a big Congolese

Kabarebe, I flew to Lagos, in Nigeria, where I am from, with two wounded aboard," Mr Gbang said from Kinshasa, where he has since returned. "I did not want to be an accomplice of the rebels."

Since landing at Kitona, Congolese government officials say, the rebels have managed to rally to their side many of the hundreds of troops from the defeated army of Mobutu, who were being retrained there for Mr Kabila's army by Rwandan instructors until Mr Kabila ordered the Rwandans to go home two weeks ago.

The rebels already control most of the far eastern part of the country. But in the last few days, Western diplomats say, they have moved from the Kitona base to seize two important towns, Banana and Moanda, which control access to the country's only seaport, Matadi.

In the latest fighting, though, the rebels are reported to be encountering strong government resistance about 160 miles south-west of Kinshasa.

Regional experts say the latest fighting was prompted apparently by a feeling in Rwanda, as well as in Uganda and Angola, two other key sponsors of Mr Kabila's own uprising, that his government was doing too little to stop cross-border incursions into those countries by rebels who use Congolese territory for rear bases.

The hijacked pilot's account came on a day when the Congolese authorities gave details of what they said was substantial foreign involvement in the rebellion. In addition to Rwanda, the Kabila government has accused Uganda of sending troops and tanks into north-eastern Congo in support of the rebels. — *New York Times*

Yeltsin fixes Mir visit for ex-aide

James Meek in Moscow

WORKING your way up to being a bespectacled bureaucrat flying a desk in the bowels of the Kremlin does not appear to be the best way to fulfil your boyhood dream of becoming a cosmonaut.

But it worked for Yuri Baturin. The best way to live out your fantasies in Russia, it seems, is by getting close enough to the president, Boris Yeltsin, to hooch the subject.

A year after Mr Yeltsin fixed it for him, the one-time senior Kremlin defence aide who always wanted to fly into orbit is sitting at Baikonur cosmodrome, waiting to become one of the last men to travel to the Mir space station. "I have long dreamed of working in space," Mr Baturin, aged 49, said earlier this year. "I am sure this is very hard work for strong men."

There was scepticism last year when news first trickled out that Mr Baturin, an owl figure then working as secretary of the president's defence council, was to be sent into space. Doubts deepened when Mr Baturin denied it and was demoted a few days later.

In February he was dismissed altogether as a Yeltsin aide, although he still remains

on the government's payroll. But the civil servant popped up at Star City, the cosmonaut training village outside Moscow, and was pronounced fit to fly. He will blast off from Baikonur, in a spacecraft specially tailored to fit him, with two professional cosmonauts on Thursday.

There was speculation that Mr Baturin, who for a short time led attempts to reform Russia's elephantine post-Soviet military, might be going to the ageing space station as a kind of cosmic health and safety inspector.

But a government decision has been taken to end Mr's life next year and beyond a handful of scientific experiments he is due to carry out, there seems little reason for Mr Baturin flying to the space station for a mere nine day stay, except that he wanted to go.

What makes his trip, thought to be costing in excess of £10 million, even more mysterious is that the government has been taken to end Mr's life next year and beyond a handful of scientific experiments he is due to carry out, there seems little reason for Mr Baturin flying to the space station for a mere nine day stay, except that he wanted to go.

Islanders vote on split after St Kitts gets their goat

The 9,000 citizens of St Nevis look set for independence, writes Gary Young in Washington

VOTERS in the tiny Caribbean island of St Nevis went to the polls yesterday to decide whether to split from their only slightly larger neighbour to become the newest and one of the smallest countries in the world.

A two-thirds "Yes" vote, which is widely expected, would bring independence for 9,000 Nevisians and end an awkward 115-year relationship with the 32,000-strong population of St Kitts.

"The people of St Nevis want to be in control of their affairs. That is the issue at hand. There is no other issue," Vance Amory, the island's premier and force behind the secessionist movement, told about 150 supporters at a Charlestown rally on Sunday.

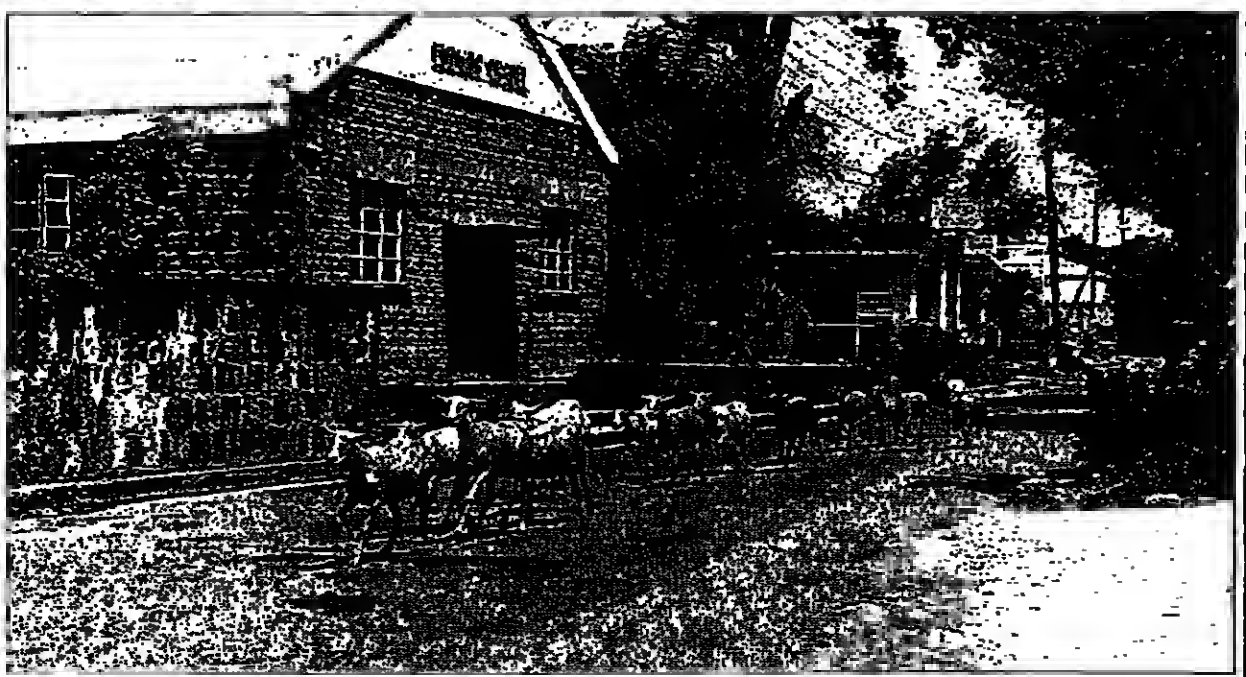
Under the present constitution, the federation government, which is predominantly Kittitian, controls foreign policy, national taxation, security and defence for both islands. St Nevis' administration, through its elected parliament and premier, is responsible for all other issues on the island.

The independence drive has raised alarm in the Caribbean and in the United States. Officials privately say that a breakaway island could be vulnerable to drug cartels, unable to pay international bills, and could become a liability to a fledgling Caribbean trade bloc.

The prime minister of St Kitts and St Nevis, Denzil Douglas, believes Nevisians are being shortchanged. "A veritable Pandora's box of problems would come cascading down on the people of St Kitts and Nevis," he said. "Let us not fight against the current of history."

Opponents of secession say the islands' fates are inextricably linked. Half of all Kittitians were born in Nevis. Ninety per cent of Nevis' consumer goods and most of its tourists come through St Kitts. And how, they ask, does an island of only 36 square miles plan to navigate the new world order without being buffeted by supranational trade blocs and international political alliances?

But Mr Amory believes St Kitts has shortchanged St Nevis. St Nevis contributes 38 per cent of the eastern Caribbean country's budget, but receives only 21 per cent.



Rush hour in Charlestown, the seat of power for what is likely to be the world's newest country. PHOTOGRAPH BY ALEX HAMILTON

cably linked. Half of all Kittitians were born in Nevis. Ninety per cent of Nevis' consumer goods and most of its tourists come through St Kitts. And how, they ask, does an island of only 36 square miles plan to navigate the new world order without being buffeted by supranational trade blocs and international political alliances?

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has many modern roads, while St Nevis has a single pitted road ringing the island. St Kitts has a new international airport in the capital, Basseterre; Nevis has a runway that can cope only with two-engine planes.

Mr Amory claims St Nevis is better equipped for independence than some former Soviet republics. It boasts a fledgling offshore financial industry, a stable currency tied to the US dollar, and a growing tourist trade.

Size, he insists, is not important. "Small is not an indication of capability," he said. "A number of large countries in the world are worse off."

The secessionist drive began after the Pepsi distributor on St Kitts emerged in 1994 as a suspected cocaine baron, targeted by US and British drug enforcement officials. Nevisians grew tired of the poor company they were keeping.

Both islands were originally part of a three-nation strong federation created by the British in 1883. The federation's third member, Anguilla, pulled out in 1967 and declared its re-dependence on Britain. St Kitts and St Nevis declared full independence from Britain in 1983.

News in brief

Kosovo rebels kill 10 Serbs

Ethnic Albanian guerrillas killed 10 policemen in the Serb province of Kosovo, Serb police said, as diplomatic efforts continued yesterday in Pristina to end the violence.

The US ambassador, Chris Hill, who has been working to try to bring the Serb and ethnic Albanian sides together, was in the provincial capital Pristina to see Ibrahim Rugova, leader of the Kosovo Albanians, and the Yugoslav deputy prime minister, Nikola Salajevic. — *Reuters*

McDougal trial

Susan McDougal, who with her former husband, the late Arkansas banker Jim McDougal, were the Clintons' partners in the bankrupt Arkansas Whitewater land deal and were convicted of fraud, went on trial yesterday accused of stealing \$150,000 (\$92,000) from the conductor Zubin Mehta and his wife, Nancy, writes Christopher Reed in Los Angeles. She faces being jailed again for alleged offences in

the late 1980s, when she was the Mehtas' bookkeeper.

Bear necessity

Two young male polar bears were shot dead in the Arctic Svalbard islands as they searched for food in a camp of 17 British tourists and scientists. Both bears were killed because they refused to go away, even after shots to scare them. — *AP*

Apology to Sami

Sweden's reindeer-herding Sami people have won an apology from the government for centuries of oppression, being pushed off their land and denied access to their language. The 70,000 Sami, who dislike the names Laplander and Lapp, want rights as an indigenous people. — *Reuters*

Bare it and grin

A Swedish teacher who stripped naked to give her class of adult, unemployed women self-confidence has won her legal battle for compensation for unfair dismissal. She was awarded 100,000 crowns (about \$11,500) damages. — *Reuters*

Ref: M11881NG

Comment

Diary

Simon Bowers

LAST week, you recall, we left a young Gus Macdonald, the proud socialist editor of Young Guard, outliving his newspaper's commitment to the democratic electoral process. Today we find him advising readers thinking of attending the Third Young Socialist Rally at the Derbyshire Miners' Holiday Camp in 1998: "As a veteran of the two previous rallies I'll try to give some useful hints to first-timers." How thoughtful, Gus. "The sex-starved can rejoice, for the sea air and release from parental bondage has a remarkable effect on the virginal in both sexes. Rampant males have the advantage here for there are hundreds of beautiful birds working out the summer in the camp." Sounds fun. But what of discussing socialist ideals with eminent speakers all night long? "It is advisable to avoid Jimmy's bar in the main building during the visits of prominent speakers for you are in danger of being trampled in the crush of rightwing sycophants who haunt the premises—awaiting opportunities to force their attentions on anyone in or near parliament." Deploable cronyism, Gus. Utterly deplorable.

TALKING of cronyism, Derek Draper has expressed dismay—on the page opposite last Friday—over his casual association with the subject. Central to his defence appears to be his lack of interest in the game of football. However a sharp-eyed reader and Chester City fan suggests this might be questionable. One Derek Draper, it seems, before reinventing himself as New Labour's very own Arthur Daley, was in fact a key player for CFC's promotion-winning team of 1975-6. "I've played 40-odd matches a season for Chester, and have usually been lucky staying free of injury," boasted Derek in the *Topical Times Football Book* of that year. "But I still take my own training gear home to wash it."

POLICE surveillance is a delicate business, so it was with some surprise that Tim Cane, an intelligence officer from Bristol, chose—let's call her "Mrs X"—to save embarrassment—to help him monitor the movements of a gang of suspected drug dealers in his neighbourhood. As an uneventful stake-out conducted from Mrs X's living room, reports Police magazine. Tim suggested that it might be helpful if she could, in his absence, collect registration numbers of cars visiting the premises in question. A few days later Mrs X rang in to report that she had done as instructed. When Tim returned to Mrs X's, she presented him with a pile of number plates she had unscrewed from the suspects' vehicles. Good work Mrs X, one day you'll make a great contender for our FE Brains award.

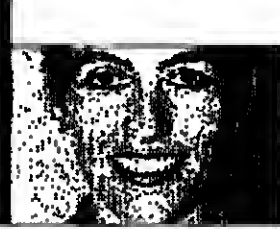
THE Diary's People-Friendly Guide to New Labour Lexion has, we fear, been sabotaged by a small cell of undesirable readers who have been inundating us with unhelpful letters. Sadly our search for meaning in John Prescott's phrase "traditional values in a modern setting" has been derailed by this sinister campaign. However, before moving on, an example must be made of one of these militants. Mrs S Evans of Grantown-on-Spey: "capitalism is a new train", "traditional gravy, new train", and "paint your Establishment pink", are unhelpful suggestions, and it is with reluctance that we send you the promised Champagne. This week's phrase to be defined is "equality of opportunity, not equality of outcome". Champers for helpful suggestions only.

THE 23-year-old Mark Leonard in Demos think tank, much loved for his Cool Britannia pamphlet, Rebranding Britain, has endeared himself to the nation yet again with another remarkable display of respectful sensitivity for one so young. "We are sending researchers out on to the street," he told the Sunday Telegraph, "to talk to tramps and ask them why they feel left out of society." Homeless persons wishing to help can e-mail him on squirt@demos.co.uk



You're so naive, Ms Wilkinson. New Labour lads aren't the real threat

Madeleine Bunting



NEW Labour has committed a new crime: too many lads playing football at the heart of government. It's been enough to finish Helen Wilkinson's love affair with New Labour, or so she told us in a long New Statesman article which got surprisingly extensive coverage last week.

Part of the curiosity in the piece was its confusion of the personal and the political. The romantic metaphors she used appeared to be courting a surely unwelcome publicity into her relationship with her former lover, Geoff Mulgan—one of the very new lads against whom the article appeared to be targeted. She even goes so far as to present a critique by claiming that criticism of New Labour is dismissed by Government circles as personally motivated. But she takes the gloves off, showing no compunction about dragging Alastair Campbell's former schoolboy into her argument to accuse the Downing Street aides not only of playing football—hell, no crime—but also of being dysfunctional. It calls to mind other good political ideas floating around which have taken on a curiously personal complexion—"psychologically flawed". When you want to be really nasty to your political opponent, you accuse them of personality dysfunction, which has become a key political issue, raising the prospect of an awful kind of emotional correctness. God help us if this is the feminisation of politics.

But with all robust polemics, Wilkinson has some interesting points to make. The first is football, or how it is emblematic of a new ladish culture which is as mar-

ginalising of women as the old macho Labour Party. There are not enough women at policy advisory level, she complains. There are a couple of important factual inaccuracies such as her ignoring the crucial fixing role women play in both Blair and Brown's offices, and that five women regularly join the football teams. Otherwise she's right. Not enough women. But are excellent women being overlooked? Is this about male oppression that ideology of victimisation into which feminism too often mistakenly falls—or are there other reasons?

Take the story of two lowly parliamentary researchers poring in next-door offices five years ago, one was working for Harriet Harman, the other for Gordon Brown. Yvette Cooper is now an MP. Ed Balls is one of the new lads in Downing Street. All women shortlists ensured that bright young women with political ambition were, rightly or wrongly, given a headstart in getting into parliament. Ironically in some cases, it was old Labour at its most macho which shoehorned women into constituencies. Ruth Kelly and Yvette Cooper are just two women who have shot ahead of their contemporaries because of their gender. Or take Patricia Hewitt, tipped for the Number 10 policy unit a few years ago. She's done better than that: she's the first member of the 1997 intake to get into government.

But there should be enough women to go round—parliament and Downing Street policy advisors. There should. But women tend to choose certain careers. Medicine, law, personnel and the media all attract an equal or even disproportionate number of women. In comparison, a

career in politics is unpredictable, with long and unsociable hours, and is not particularly financially rewarding (which, given the cost of child care, is important).

But I have no brief to defend New Labour. Wilkinson's central charge is that what is at stake is New Labour's vaunted ambitions to revitalise British democracy. That is a deeply serious question, which can't be trivialised by identifying the threat as a bunch of new lads. That is to believe Derek Draper's self-importance.

Less sexy but far more worrying is how the National Executive Council has managed to get a stranglehold on the selection of candidates for the European elections. Or that the Labour Party is poised to bastardise the purpose of a mayor for London by manoeuvring to keep Ken Livingstone off the ballot—just as the Tories may do the same to exclude Jeffrey Archer.

Illustrates depressingly the British democratic deficit across the political spectrum. As does the disturbing delay over the Freedom of Information white paper. Or how the selection panels for seats in the Welsh and Scottish assemblies detract from the triumph of devolution. Bad blots on the copybook. But on the plus side, the jury is still out over the incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights and the white paper on local government last month.

But one of the most potent forces sapping British democracy beyond New Labour, it is in the collapse and discrediting of the Conservatives. An adversarial political system doesn't work when one party is on its

knees. That was the story for much of Thatcher's 80s; the electoral pendulum swings of first-past-the-post have become so violent in the past 20 years that it has debilitated British political culture. With the Tories having little effect in denting monolithic Labour, it is not surprising that the media takes on the role of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition and pounces on any whiff of internal division.

The really interesting question is not why Wilkinson fell out of love with New Labour but why she was ever in love in the first place? It speaks of a rare naivety for one of Thatcher's children whose defining characteristic has been cynicism: either cynical apathy or the cynical craving for power which Wilkinson rightly identifies amongst the new lads. We demonstrated in the early 80s—nuclear energy, Greenham Common—and a lot of good it did anyone. The naivety is also rare amongst the 40-somethings running New Labour. No one of that generation could adopt the tone of wounded disillusionment of Wilkinson. There is a faultline on the left between those who remember the last Labour governments and those who don't. The 40-somethings were in their impressionable teens and early 20s when the last two Labour governments were fractured by disillusionment, the loss of ideas and bitter betrayals. The price of it was bitter internal feuding and 18 years in the wilderness. Out of that was born New Labour's politics of pragmatism and self-discipline. The cost, as well as the imperative, of "modernisation" has been obvious all along; it's a bit late to be crying about it now.

Hugo Young is away

How Gus has changed

Paul Foot



THE path from revolutionary party to House of Lords is well-beaten, but I am sad to see that the latest traveller down it is my old friend and comrade Gus Macdonald. Gus was the most persuasive and congenial of all the young socialists I met in Glasgow in the early 1960s. He taught me all the basic lessons about modern British society: that it is split into classes; that one class exploits the other; that the exploited class has a duty to resist; that such resistance is incomparably more likely to change things for the better than 1,000,000 years of parliamentary politics; and that socialists must therefore organise round that resistance. Gus was a disciple of Harry Selby, a Trotskyist barber who later became Labour MP for Govan, but whose real contribution to human progress was the recycling of Marxist textbooks round a band of young working class socialists who met in a tiny shop in Weir Street in the Gorbals.

Selby held the orthodox Trotskyist view that Russia was a "degenerated workers' state" which was preferable to Western capitalism. Gus organised a weekend school at which the two main speakers were Tony Cliff (Yigael Chukstein is his real name) and Michael Kidron. These two put forward the heresy that Russia was "state capitalist". The form of Russian society—no stock exchange, an apparently planned economy—might be different to the private enterprise capitalist economies, but its content—class exploitation, control from above, the alienation of labour—was the same. At a packed meeting in that Weir Street shop, Cliff started his talk on the Soviet Union by protesting that the very term was absurd. There were no real soviets (workers' councils) so how could there be a union of them?

NOT long afterwards, while hitch-hiking to a socialist meeting in Newcastle, Gus told me he'd made up his mind. There was no alternative but to join a revolutionary organisation. He was convinced that there was nothing remotely socialist or even progressive about Russia and that therefore he would be going to London to organise for the "state caps", then called the International Socialists. For nine months he lived out of a carrier bag in Tony Cliff's front room, rushing around charming everyone and pulling together small groups of socialists.

For some reason, those ex-

hilarating nine months are entirely obliterated from his entry in Who's Who. This darts from his shipyard apprenticeship through his stint as circulation manager of Tribune up and up to the top of every ladder he touched—the Scotsman, Granada Television, Scottish Television etc etc.

I dwell on the early history not just out of nostalgia but in amazement at Gus's explanation of it all. Unlike so many revolution-to-riches heroes, he cannot bring himself to renounce his past. He does not say: "Oh, that was all bollocks, silly immature idealism." He tries instead to make it all part of a logical process. In an interview in last Sunday's Observer with Arnold Kemp, he boasts: "I had a good grounding in Trotsky, and our target was state capitalism"—as though his opposition to state capitalism justified or even explained his rocketing to the heights of private enterprise capitalism. In his Observer interview Gus quotes approvingly from a real socialist hero: the old Red Clydesider, Harry McShane. Kemp writes: "McShane had broken with his old trade union mates and moved towards this 'Tibetanian left'."

He then quotes Gus as follows: "Harry told me: 'we've got it wrong about Adam Smith'. He urged me to read him. Adam Smith argues that the moral force of the market would empower people. The market looks after the poor better than the central state which can be stolen and corrupted by élites."

The inference is obvious. Even the incorruptible old socialist Harry McShane was seduced by the idea of the free market. This is to my certain knowledge the most insulting nonsense Harry McShane died, as he lived, an utterly convinced (and penniless)

He does not say: 'Oh, that was all bollocks, silly immature idealism'

socialist revolutionary. He did not break "with his old trade union mates". At the age of 85, in the nursing home where he spent his last days, he threatened a hunger strike in protest against pay cuts for the staff.

Harry did read Adam Smith, and was surprised and delighted by Smith's espousal of the labour theory of value, a theory, Harry argued, which was used by Marx to make nonsense of the theory of the free market.

And as for the market looking after the poor better than the central state which can be stolen and corrupted by élites, I imagine old Harry might have had something to say about a millionaire becoming a Tory MP, taking control of the central state—and then pretending that his decision is all of a piece with his revolutionary socialist youth.

The US cracks down on Iraq and Libya over biological and chemical warfare, but did not utter a word when the apartheid regime did the same

White poison

Max du Preez

APOINT strikes me now that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission is winding down its affairs: why have the US and UK governments never uttered a word about apartheid South Africa's extensive chemical and biological warfare programme? Because we now know that they knew. South Africans were shocked when the full story—if it was that—of Project Coast was told to the TRC.

I have always argued against analogies between apartheid South Africa and Nazi Germany, but this time it was appropriate: the manufacture of tons of Ecstasy and Mandrax to "pacify" angry black mobs; the development of deadly anthrax, cholera and botulin cultures; and of cyanide, Aldikarb, thallium, paracetamol and other dangerous poisons; the manufacture of

James-Bond-like screwdrivers and umbrellas with concealed poisoned needles; research into weapons that would "only work on people with dark skins" and on a vaccine that would lower the fertility rate of black women.

Truly evil stuff. Dr Wouter Basson, mastermind of the project (and former State President, FW de Klerk's personal physician) attended a closed conference on biological and chemical warfare in San Antonio in the US in 1983. By all accounts he made no secret of who he was and what he was doing. Did nobody ask him what his apartheid government wanted to do with its biological and chemical weapons, but the way Dr Basson and his commanding officer, Surgeon General DP Knobel remembered it before the TRC, was that these governments did not want the incoming ANC government to have access to the weapons.

In other words, it was fines for the racist minority white government to have chemical and biological weapons, but not for the democratically elected black government. According to some statements the TRC investigators had access to, the British proposed that Basson be assassinated. But the De Klerk government agreed only to a

proposal that he be "co-opted and contained". In fact, the ANC government and the US "ran" Basson for at least two years after the 1994 election. In January 1997, the CIA found out that Basson was planning to leave South Africa with his secret box of tricks. They tipped off the authorities in Pretoria that he was in possession of large quantities of Ecstasy and Mandrax tablets, and Basson was arrested and charged.

His court case on charges of murder, theft, fraud and possession of large quantities of Ecstasy and Mandrax tablets will start later this year.

WERE simple Third World people here on the southern tip of Africa, and maybe a lot of this sophisticated stuff is over our heads. But can anybody blame us if we ask why the US has imposed sanctions and indeed war on Iraq and Libya because they allegedly have biological and chemical warfare pro-

grammes, but did not utter a word when the apartheid regime did the same?

In 1989, Vrye Weekblad, the newspaper which I founded and edited, published a story that General Lothar Neethling, then head of the SA Police's Forensics Department, spent a lot of his time developing poison to be administered to opponents of the National Party government. Most could kill without leaving any trace. We had the evidence of the head of the police death squad, Dirk Coetzee, that Neethling gave him some of these poisons which he then used on ANC sympathisers.

Neethling sued me for defamation for R1.5 million (about £150,000). The Supreme Court judge found him to be a liar and decided in our favour. But in the Appellate Division the judges found both Neethling and Coetzee to be liars, and thus decided that we had not discharged our onus of



proving our defamatory statements. We had to pay Neethling's costs and damages of R30,000 (about \$9,000). The case had run for five years. There was no way Vrye Weekblad could pay his legal costs and damages and we closed it down at the end of February 1994.

Exactly 10 years after we published the original story, I sat in the TRC hearing, listening to evidence that Neethling was Basson's biggest ally in Project Coast and that everything we had written about him was indeed true.

My Calvinist grandfather was right when he told me: "Jy kan hol soos 'n jakkals en blaf soos 'n wildebeest, maar die einde gaan die waarheid jou vang." (You can run like a fox and bark like a wild dog, but in the end the truth will catch up with you.)

Max du Preez is editor of a weekly South African TV programme on the Truth Commission

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Doctors' golden teeth

Share the perks fairly

IT was a classic Freudian slip. Desperately seeking to defend the indefensible, the president of the Hospital Consultants Association insisted yesterday that distinction awards "aren't some last bolt-on perk". But that is precisely what they are. They were devised 50 years ago by Aneurin Bevan — along with NHS pay beds and part-time contracts that permitted private practice — to "stiff their teeth with gold" and win them round to the launch of the National Health Service. A succession of health ministers, Tory as well as Labour, have in subsequent decades condemned them but the inglorious pay system has continued. Now it is to change. Alan Milburn, the health minister, announced a new system for determining awards, a new procedure to ensure awards are withdrawn in the face of poor performance (following the revelation that an award was still being paid to a senior consultant involved in the Bristol scandal in which 12 children under going heart surgery at the Royal Infirmary died) plus further root and branch change next year.

A top award — worth £55,000 — can double a consultant's salary overnight. The £100 million cost would be sufficient to hire another 2,000 consultants or 3,500 desperately-needed nurses. Only 13 per cent of consultants receive them at any one time but over one third will receive an award before retirement. This pushes up the final bill to over £187 million when pension implications are included.

They were described by the Treasury as "a blot on the landscape". Almost from their launch, it tried to abolish them. Even the health department could only produce contradictory purposes: a compensation for loss of private practice, an inducement to recruitment, a means of attracting consultants away from major teaching hospitals. One decade on they were shown to be disproportionately distributed to teaching hospitals and to consultants already enjoying private practice. The bias continued. Three decades on, the Labour government of 1974-79 tried to shift their distribution away from fashionable specialties (surgery) to unfashionable specialties (geriatrics and psychiatry) and from popular areas (London and Oxford) to unfashionable regions (West Midlands and the North). But the bias continued.

There have been some reforms over the years. The committee which distributes the awards is no longer totally in the hands of the medical profession. The secrecy under which awards were bestowed began to lift with the appointment of the former health ombudsman to the committee's chair two years ago. But even the consultants' association concedes further reform is needed. It is in the profession's own interests. Indeed, the reason the Treasury was won round to supporting the anomalous public service pay procedure was on the grounds that it was a cheap way of offering pay increases.

The consultants are right to warn against changes being introduced because of one rogue doctor. But health reformers have been campaigning for change for decades. An Aberdeen consultant, interviewed in our Society section pages in March, who called for awards to go to doctors propping up the NHS on a day-to-day basis rather than to elite high-profile specialists was only echoing earlier calls. He will be pleased. Pa-

tients are to be given a greater say. The current 38-member distributing committee will be reduced to 14 members with eight seats reserved for patient representatives and NHS employees. Ministers are rightly insisting that more women — and more doctors from ethnic minorities — must be recognised. But the old causes must not be forgotten either: a fairer distribution to unfashionable specialties and unpopular areas too.

Burma's misery

It is time for sanctions

HERE ARE TWO questions to ponder about Myanmar (leaving aside another question: why has the military regime changed the country's name from Burma?) First, why was this weekend's anniversary of events on August 8, 1988 in Rangoon commemorated abroad so much less energetically than similar anniversaries for what happened a year later in Tiananmen Square? Burma's young student leaders had chosen the date — 8-8-88 — for its auspicious effect, challenging the military junta which had just declared martial law. (The foreign activists arrested in Rangoon on Sunday were handing out leaflets with the message — "8-8-88 don't give up"). The student protest was met with repeated gunfire not only in the capital but across the country. No one has been able to count the bodies, but far more — thousands — died in Burma than in China the next year.

The second question is why 350,000 men (the officers and soldiers of the Burmese armed forces) are frightened of one woman (the Nobel Peace Prize-winner Aung San Suu Kyi)? Forced by international pressure to lift the formal conditions of her house

arrest, the generals of the SLORC — the appropriately ugly acronym for the regime they set up in September 1988 — continue to harass her in ways which are simultaneously cruel and absurd. This question is easy to answer. Ms Suu Kyi has created a model of passive resistance against which the generals have no effective counter. She is protected to some extent by foreign opinion, but the members of her National League for Democracy have no such protection. Amnesty International reports that there are more than 1,200 long-term political prisoners. Some have spent ten years in prison simply for writing letters or handing out leaflets, and are now physically broken. Entire village populations among the ethnic minorities have been evicted by the army or forced to perform corvée labour.

In the global scene of human rights abuses, Burma/Myanmar comes at the most horrific end of the scale. Some regional analysts in Bangkok believe that the junta is showing signs of internal strain. It is at a dead end and internally divided, while its former head of state General Ne Win may be in terminal decline. The time is long overdue to step up foreign pressure with serious trade sanctions from which Western interests have always recoiled. SLORC has renamed itself the State Peace and Development Association — but it does not make the slightest difference.

Shining cricket

Let's ignore the cynics

THERE IS something about Headingley. In 1981 England beat Australia from an apparently hopeless position, thanks to Botham's belligerence and Brearley's brain;

'Well-oiled summer sex is far superior to peeling off layers of clothing'

Ian Rogers, Letters

In 1981 Graham Gooch played the innings of his life to beat West Indies and end their decade of domination; and yesterday, in the nail-biting final act of an outstanding drama, England defeated South Africa to complete their first win in a full Test series for 12 years. After a summer of sporting disappointment, a nation rejoiced.

Yesterday's win was not quite on a par with the heroics of Botham or Gooch — those were extraordinary performances that turned games which England looked destined to lose. But it was thrilling enough for people in homes and offices to suspend their normal business to follow the play. Gooch, the local hero, made sure they did not watch in vain. Non-cricket-lovers will find the emotion that greeted the victory absurd. It's just a game; a game moreover that is played at a funeral pace and lasts the best part of a week. But ignore the cynics: cricket still has a place in our soul. In 1981 Botham became an instant national hero. In 1991, Gooch's team was lauded in the House of Commons; Alec Stewart has no doubt just booked his knighthood.

After the debacle at Lord's, English cricket was written off by the pundits: nobody watched it, cared about it, played it any more. The football juggernaut was destined to crush it. At the weekend, the soccer season, after the briefest of breaks, began in earnest: if England had lost, the obituaries would have been hard at work. As it was, it was far too hot for football and the sun shone brightest on English cricket. Now England head for Australia where, if the bookies are to be believed, their hopes will once more turn to ashes. If they do, the headline-writers will round on yesterday's heroes and pronounce the game dead for the umpteenth time. The Ashes date back to England's shock defeat by the "Colonists" in 1882: it has been a long time dying.

Letters to the Editor

Why Julie's name isn't mud

IT SEEMS that Julie Burchill (Guardian Weekend, August 9) has identified a hitherto unknown sexual perversion. Obviously, in order to be studied properly, it must first be given a name. Unfortunately, "burchillism" is inappropriate, since by tradition perversion is denoted by the name of the person who first became famous for practising them, as opposed to whoever first described them in the literature. (In any case, "burchillism" might perhaps be reserved for practices more specifically associated with Ms Burchill herself.)

For the new practice of "doing it with mud", I suggest "aldism", after Brian Aldis, the science fiction writer, who also wrote a courageously frank autobiography. The titles of the first two volumes, *The Hand-Reared Boy* and *The Soldier Erect*, provide a fair insight into their content. He qualifies for donating his name to science because of an incident in a lake in Malaysia, described in the second of these.

Peter Mellor, Stevenage, Herts.

HOWEVER militant the 17th-century church, I doubt your account of "carions" — positioned on the wall by the Protestant defenders of London (Tale of strife, betrayal and romance, August 8). As Presbyterians, they are much more likely to have planted elders.

Philip Jones, Morden, Surrey.

FORGET the slate carvings found at Tintagel (Do these markings mean that the legend of King Arthur is now a fact? August 7, and Letters, August 10). Every Yorkshireman knows that the real King Arthur is alive and well, and president of the National Union of Mineworkers.

Rob Hays, Ripponden, West Yorks.

As a thinking woman may I assure you that Desmond Lynam is not the thinking woman's crumpet (Des Lynam smooth-talks his way into Radio 2 drive-time, August 7). In fact, I never think about him at all. If anyone were to assume that mantle it would be Alan Rickman.

D David, London.

DURING July this household received 58 articles of unsolicited promotional mail weighing 3.3 kilograms. If this is typical of the amount received by each household in the country, how many acres of forest are required to service Britain's monthly junk mail output?

R Oldroyd, Bath.

YOUR report (Serbs claim that Kosovo push is nearly over, August 8) that Nato plans to bomb targets across the whole of Serbia "to help restore peace" puts me in mind of the old American adage: "fighting for peace is like screwing for virginity".

Brian Pocock, London.

Hot sex down south

I READ with incredulity (Letters, August 8) complaints about lack of time to enjoy the summer weather. What nonsense! The writer had at least seen the sun these last few days.

The only ones who have a right to complain are we in the north-west. Recently we went shopping in the early morning in nearby Darlington, dressed in light summer clothes at last. After half an hour in a shop we found that it was raining heavily outside. In the afternoon the fierce west wind, which has been plaguing us for weeks, rose again and battered all our plants.

The next day we made the same trip, with the same hope of a clear summer day, only to find that half the sky over Darlington had taken on a familiar dark grey hue. A street sign told us that all areas north of Leeds were in a thick

belt of heavy cloud which would last all day. All too true. We have not seen the sun at all. But at least it has been warmer, a modest 20°C.

Our morning temperatures throughout June and July were around 10-11°C (as in April and May).

We do not sympathise with anyone complaining about a cold, dull summer, monotonously the same from June to August. Green with envy, of course, when we see the weather forecast predicting warmth, especially long hours of sunshine in the south and south-east. Here is a real difference between the haves and have-nots!

E Marianne Whittaker, Richmond, North Yorks.

I AM NOT surprised that your correspondent dislikes hot weather and those who praise it. The fact that hot weather causes sickness, irritation, sweating, and headaches in this correspondent is most likely a result of the extra weight he, or she, admits to carrying around.

I also have to disagree with the assertion that cold weather is sexy, and that "sweaty bodies rolling together" are not. I think that well-oiled summer sex is far superior to peeling off layers of clothing while the invading cold freezes your arse.

Ian Rogers, Sheffield.

YOUR correspondent asked dismissively, "what's sexy about two clammy, sweaty bodies rolling together?" Might I gently suggest that it depends entirely on to whom those clammy, sweaty bodies belong.

Barrie A. Kendrick, London.

The uncle, fathers and mothers of the Pill

I READ with disbelief your reporter's reference to Carl Djerassi (Pill popper, G2, August 5) as the "creator of the contraceptive pill". This is by no means the scientific or historical consensus. It is true that Carl Djerassi synthesised norethisterone (the first progestogen), which went on to be an important ingredient in many oral contraceptives and was approved in the mid-1950s for treatment of menstrual disturbances.

However, the first combined oral contraceptive (the "pill" as it is known today) was created using a different progestogen in combination with an oestrogen, which was put on trial in Puerto Rico in 1956 by Gregory Pincus, John

Rock, Celso-Ramon Garcia and Edris Rice-Wray. It was approved as an oral contraceptive in May 1960 and marketed as Enovid. It was the work of a team, not of an individual (not to mention the thousands of women who took part in the trials), but unfortunately neither Pincus nor Rock are alive and in a position to dispute Djerassi's claims.

Djerassi also states that the pill was a man's invention as there were "no women in my field at the time". Apart from the fact that Edris Rice-Wray was a woman, almost all of the research by Pincus and Rock was personally financed by Katherine McCormick, a wealthy birth-control activist.

At the time, the US government would not provide funds for research into birth control. In addition, the activist Margaret Sanger is known to have encouraged Gregory Pincus to work on an oral contraceptive.

Your journalist seemed to find Djerassi's fallibility endearing — perhaps that should have encouraged her to look more closely at his claims. He would perhaps be more appropriately referred to as the uncle, rather than the father, of the modern oral contraceptive pill.

Dr Emily Banks, Clinical Research Fellow, Imperial Cancer Research Fund, Oxford.

The video umpire strikes back

WE CAN use video to alleviate the worst miscarriages of umpiring justice (Australia appeal for live by video, August 5), while still allowing the umpires to retain their proper role as arbiters. Allow each batsman up to two appeals per innings to the third umpire as of right. Video evidence can then be used, for example, to reverse the umpire's decision if he gives the batsman out caught but it turns out that the ball in fact brushed the pad and not the bat.

side 27 similar appeals per innings (2 per batsman) for cases where they feel they have been hard done by. If the video evidence is inconclusive then the umpire's decision stands. Because of the limitation on appeals they will only be used when there is a real doubt.

Simon Hunter, Brookmans Park, Hertfordshire.

We do not publish letters where only an e-mail address is supplied; please include a full postal address. We may edit letters.

Loyal test

THE resolution of the Lambeth Conference on human sexuality (Only and unequal, August 5) leaves the Church of England with a potential constitutional crisis. In the desperation to disguise the homophobia of many Anglican bishops by ruling out all sexual behaviour outside life-long marriage, it has been made impossible to take the loyal oath in good conscience should the Prince of Wales ever become sovereign while our Church remains established.

Rev Stephen Coles, London.

Playing the housing game

WILL HATCHETT (Housing Trusts take stock, August 5) surprisingly refers to council house provision as a "game". It is an admission of failure. It should be about to end through (believe it or not) New Labour's mass disposal of these valuable public assets, land and buildings, to the private sector — no doubt at the usual bargain basement prices.

The Tory party fostered this method of plundering the public purse for private gain, inclusive of bribing council tenants to vote for it by offering sweeteners such as temporary rent freezes. Ironically, the tenants are not the sole owners of this municipal property. It was originally financed by rate and taxpayers, who are denied participation in the voting procedure. This is more like a game, reminiscent of Monopoly, which they will come to regret.

Ignored is the fact that fragmented property holdings cause increased maintenance costs. As a former Labour councillor, with experience of housing matters, and a retired local authority Chief Officer, I am amazed to read that a city

Beware old Labour's bunch of elite, bourgeois lefties

AS AN addict of the Guardian's iconoclasm towards the new Labour machine, I have to say that you have gone too far (Leader, August 10). Endorsing the Grassroots Alliance slate for Labour's National Executive Committee is folly.

own minds and are not afraid to speak out. What's more, they have rolled up their sleeves to get Labour elected in the bad times as well as the good.

Tom Watson, Kidderminster, Worcestershire.

The organisations represented on the slate are the very ones that brought Labour to its knees in the early 80s. The Campaign for Labour Party Democracy (an ironic euphemism) and Labour Briefing are London-based, bourgeois, middle class elites who don't give two hoots about the party.

You imply that the Grassroots Alliance candidates are the only ones who wish to keep debate alive in the party. Have you talked to any of the other candidates? Have you asked Sylvia Tudge about devolution or Diana Jenda about welfare reform or Terry Thomas about pensioners' rights? If you had you would know that they know their

I AM 20 years old and have been a Labour activist for more than eight years. I have seen how those who claim to be from the left of the party created an unelectable Labour Party during the Thatcher years. The Grassroots Alliance are an extreme, unrepresentative, cranky faction of Militant-style extremists. In Liverpool we have seen what these people and their pals have done to our party, resulting in the Labour Democrats gaining overall control.

I urge all members of the Labour Party to vote for those who put the Labour Party and the Labour government first.

Leon Rodin, Liverpool.

Vision needed for rights act

IT IS difficult to know how the Human Rights Act can become established without a human rights commission or commissioner (Lord Irvine of Lairg, Letters, August 6). Without such back-up, who will be able to assess the success, failure and gaps?

Although the appointment of a parliamentary committee devoted to human rights would be welcome, MPs could not possibly devote the time necessary to address the massive information demand which the Act will provoke from the general public, legal

practitioners and public bodies. Without a statutory body acting as a reference point which educates and informs on the new raft of rights which incorporation of the European Human Rights Convention will bring, the Human Rights Act will be a lame duck.

The Government's lack of vision on this matter brings into question its commitment to successful implementation of important legislation.

Frances D'Souza, Executive Director, Article 19.

How to weed out the genetic crops that really are worth worrying about

WEEDKILLER-resistant crops (Gene crops 'super-weed' nightmare confirmed, August 7) are environmentally dangerous, even when they only work as intended. They allow farmers to spray toxic pesticides liberally, exterminating all the vegetation in an area other than the crop plants, and the animals which live on the vegetation.

On the other hand, the Flavr Savr tomato (which ripens hard and can only be sold as tomato puree because the gene

for softening is inhibited by a counter gene) is not dangerous. If we are concerned for the environment, we will choose which genetic modifications to oppose, and which not to worry about. As a whole, the vociferous movement against genetic modification is only secondarily concerned for the environment. Its primary motive is a superstitious fear of "tampering with nature".

Donald Roomm, London.

THE nightmare of a "super-weed" arising from the gene flow from a genetically modified crop to associated weeds leads logically from the continuing challenge to increase agricultural productivity.

The prevailing chemical (and now biotechnology) versus non-chemical approach to weed control diverts attention away from investigating imaginative weed control measures.

Swiss scientists have devel-

oped a non-toxic polymer — by reconsidering the fundamental physiology for weed growth — which, when applied to a soil surface, selectively suppresses weed growth.

The polymer is under field evaluation in Oman. The prospect of marketing such an environmentally safe polymer is well high zero, competing as it does with the vested interests of the multinational companies and the entrenched organic farming lobby.

Alternatives to killing soils with herbicides do exist and their development costs are tiny in comparison with the risks of rampant biotechnology.

Peter Cookson, Oman.

WE MUST ban genetically modified food immediately. Please campaign for the banning of those orange pipkins now.

Jim Daley, Brynford, Flintshire.

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Richmond . . . with fellow organists Ena Baga (left) and Florence de Jong

PHOTO: E HAMILTON WEST

A music of electronics

the demise of solo theatre organ programmes in 1968, he instigated the new organ "variety" show, *The Organist Entertains*.

In 1979, after retiring from the BBC, Richmond and his French wife Renée lived in Nice for a few years, but he continued to tour and make appearances on French TV. The couple returned to London and Yehudi made occasional guest appearances at theatre organ concerts.

Robin Richmond was a colourful character. He had a keen sense of humour, strong opinions and a kindly disposition. He never lost his passion for the organ and organ music and was a great supporter of new talent, helping to launch the career of many young players. Throughout his own long and varied career he was a true entertainer, who made a significant contribution to the world of popular organ music.

Nigel Ogden

Robin Richmond, organist, born April 21, 1912; died July 27, 1998

mond continued to appear on the radio and made a string of records. He provided the music for television programmes such as *The Fred Emney Show* and Hughie Green's quiz-show *Double Your Money*. As a producer and a presenter his programmes included *Jazz Club*, *Housewives' Choice*, *Two-Way Family Favourites* and *Peter Murray's Open House*. After

porter of new talent, helping to launch the career of many young players. Throughout his own long and varied career he was a true entertainer, who made a significant contribution to the world of popular organ music.

Nigel Ogden

Robin Richmond, organist, born April 21, 1912; died July 27, 1998

The new family way

clusive of men and of the wider local community. Kate Poulton was born in Crawley, Sussex, and won a scholarship to Christ's Hospital in Hertford. She read history at Churchill College, Cambridge, and then completed an MPhil at London's Bartlett School, which focused on housing and the built environment.

In London, she became involved in a number of the flourishing women's groups women's aid, women against racism and fascism, and also with the History Workshop. She worked at the North Kensington Housing Department, the London Housing Department and at the Hackney Women's Unit. For the last 10 years of her life she worked in the BBC personnel department, rising to be the Women's Service controller of personnel.

She was a keen sports-woman, and loved music and the arts. She was also an inspirational individual, not least in the courage with which she dealt with her final illness. Kate Poulton, although she might have protested at the idea of being a quiet pioneer, she is survived by Sue and their children.

Elizabeth Wilson

Kate Poulton, socialist feminist, born June 30, 1955, died July 26,



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The art of history

tion of minor ones. It probably also influenced his interest in the history of ideas — in romanticism especially. Ha wrote most perceptively on Goetha's view of Rembrandt and on Ruskin's of Turner. But his approach to paintings was not literary. Instead, he encouraged direct engagement with the visual experience.

"To begin with," he wrote of Rembrandt, in his book of



Kitsen... broad view

1969, "we notice dark backgrounds broken by irregular patches of light. There is more dark than light, and the light does not often extend as far as the frame. Instead, it lies in or near the centre where it balances the darkness and holds most of our attention..." In Caravaggio's early work, described in the introductory essay Kitsen wrote for *The Complete Paintings* (also in 1969), "The poses are precisely held yet quite

tive, the outlines are delicate and economical, the forms unaccustomed and soft, the colours luminous and clear. The painting is smooth, compact and terse without any display of expressive 'handling'. Bloom lies on the fruit, the wood grain is visible on the surface of a table or lute.


Kilston left the Courtauld in 1930 to become director of the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art in London. He was also adjunct professor at Yale, where he died in 1978. A scholar of French 17th-century art, who was to be his close companion for the rest of his life.

After retirement in 1932, he remained active as a writer. Tolerant of alternations of allegiance to art history, including some which could themselves be highly intolerant, he was unusually well-qualified to be an historian of the discipline, as can be seen from his contribution to the gallery's recent exhibition, *Rediscovering the Baroque*. Meanwhile, his own style of art history has fallen somewhat from favour. The reprinting of many of his forgotten broadcasts and reviews – as well as his remarkable essays, would stimulate a revival.

Nicholas Penny

Professor Michael William Leary Kilson, art historian, born January 30, 1926; died August 7, 1989

Getting vigilant over Virgil



Grandson... vivacious

of E. M. Forster and Angus Wilson; in his later career he concentrated on classical literature, and particularly Virgil. He edited two books of the *Aeneid*, and published several works on the Roman poet, including *Virgil's Iliad* (1984), an intertextual study of Homer's influence on Virgil, which reads the epic texts in the light of modern critical

studies on the nature of narrative.

Gransden was an enthusiastic, lucid teacher, who loved literature and wanted to communicate his enjoyment, and an engaging colleague, vivacious and gossipy. He enjoyed travel and opera, and more active pursuits such as jogging and ballroom dancing. The fact that he had come late to university teaching, and the breadth of his interests, made him an unusual, even anachronistic figure in the latter-day academic world of strict professionalism and narrow specialisms.

Gransden was, in every sense, an outstanding all-rounder and remained emeritus reader at Warwick until his retirement. He is survived by his partner and two children from a previous marriage.

Bernard Bergson

Kari "Ken" Watts Gransden, poet, critic and scholar, born February 24, 1925; died July 23, 1998

THE managing director of Talk Radio, Paul Robinson, says our description of the station's output (C2, page 2, July 25) as "nothing but chat all night and nothing but music in the afternoon" is "a bit unfair" because, in fact, TR's output consists of news, discussion, debate, documentaries, sport and football commentary. Our article was "a bit out of context" and we are not kept of appearances by guests — they are, and the forward planning department has four staff, not three. Mr Robinson also says that in his view that Talk Radio is vulnerable and says: "We are a lean operation, or if you prefer, very efficient."

THE key to the map of Britain, accompanying an article on next August's *Guardian* (C2, page 2, AUGUST 2) that

wrongly annotated. It should have indicated that the degree of obscuration of the sun in different parts of the country will be within the range of 70-90 per cent, not 70-80 per cent, rather than in fixed bands of 70pc, 75pc, 80pc, etc.

THE inventor of Esperanto was Ludwig Zamenhof. The wrong name was given in a piece about Warsaw (Travel, page 9, August 6).

IT is the policy of the *Guardian* to correct errors as soon as possible. Readers may contact the Readers' Editor on 0171 239 5000, or write to the Editors, Monday to Friday. Letters to the Readers' Editor, *The Guardian*, 11, Farringdon Road, London EC1A 3DF, will also be accepted. Letters to the Readers' Editor should be sent to the

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Analysis Biodiversity



**Apartheid's
Dr Poison**

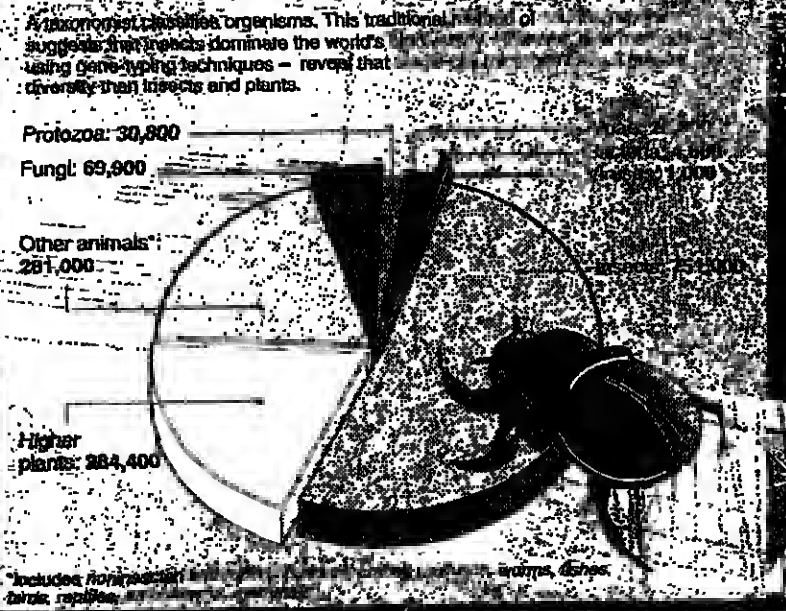
Tearing up the map of creation

A fish the size of a barn door is on the verge of extinction. But if we failed to notice this until almost too late, how many other species are disappearing? What we do know, says **Tim Radford** is that the massacre of the species at present rates has baleful consequences for Planet Earth

Life's rich tapestry



Animal detectives



Natural remedies

Like many drugs, aspirin was developed after scientists began to analyse chemical constituents of plants used in traditional, herbal healing. Called the ethnobotanical approach, it may uncover future drug treatments.

Drug	Medical use	Plant Source
Aspirin	Reduces pain and inflammation	<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>
Codine	Eases pain; suppresses coughing	<i>Papaver somniferum</i>
Atropine	Relieves vomiting	<i>Psychotria speciosa</i>
Scopolamine	Relieves eye pressure	<i>Pilocarpus jaborandi</i>
Quinine	Relieves fever and malaria	<i>Cinchona</i>
Thiopyridine	Relieves heart disease	<i>Thiopyridine</i>
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A BIG fish is about to swim away, forever. The barn door skate *Raja lepis* seems close to extinction. In 1951 research ships found it in 10 per cent of all trawls of the St Pierre Bank in the Atlantic Ocean off Newfoundland. Over the last 20 years, none at all have been caught there. The barn door skate grows to a metre across, not something you would miss if you were looking out for it. But nobody was. "Failure to examine historical data has resulted in the largest skate in the North Atlantic being driven to near extinction without anyone noticing," say researchers. If something the size of a barn door could slip away without being missed "the fate of little known species is likely to be worse".

The things that make life possible are barely visible. Laboratory experiments based on small, artificial worlds keep demonstrating that diversity is life's strongest card. The recycling of air and water and plant nutrients is the business of little creatures most of us never notice. The food we eat, the medicines we take and the tools we use have been fashioned for us by 500 million years of evolution. Yet we know practically nothing about most of them. We even lack a starting point. Who knows how many small fry are being dished? Creatures are being erased from life's register faster than anyone can record them. All the evidence is that humans are extinguishing other life forms on an epic scale. But there are no tallymen to count the dead, or take the measure of the living: there are probably only about 7,000 experts - they are called taxonomists, or sometimes systematists - on the whole planet with the authority to distinguish species one from another. Most are in the wrong places. And few have been getting much encouragement. Without them we cannot even begin arguing.

The Book of Genesis established 3,000 years ago - to the satisfaction of Jewish and Christian Europe at least - that Man had dominion over beast and fowl but it was not until 1735 that Carl Linnaeus, the great Swedish taxonomist, began counting the kingdom. French and British natural historians followed and established a systematic way of interrogating a creature's nature in order to make a family connection.

They started with kingdoms (is it animal or vegetable?); phyla (has it got a backbone or a skeleton on the outside and jointy legs?); class (is it a mammal or a marsupial?); family (can it walk upright?); genus (is it a human of some kind or a cat maybe?) and species (call that person *sapiens*). In the course of 240 years, they established a local habitation and name for each of about 1.7 or 1.8 million species.

But there is no central catalogue or inventory. So the same species might be recorded under one identity in one country and under an entirely separate name in another. Where scientists have checked, they have found "synonymy" in perhaps 20 per cent of cases. So the true number of species that have been described and named is perhaps 1.4 million.

Then researchers began to look a little harder. They spread nets under trees, dusted them with insecticide and counted just the arthropods (including insects) that fell out. The numbers astonished them. When they got to 50,000, they started to get alarmed, by that reckoning there might be 20 million species to be described, rather than two million. What was true for the Amazon rainforest turned out to be equally true for coral reefs and mangrove swamps. The great plains of Africa turned out to be bewilderingly rich in life.

Everybody's idea of the Serengeti is a big acacia tree with a leopard hanging in it," says one ecologist. But there are at least 20 species of acacia in the Serengeti. God knows how many beetles there might be - and God, as the great biologist J. B. S. Haldane once deduced, has "an inordinate fondness for beetles" having made so many of them.

But taxonomists are oppressed by something darker than the task of counting. What is going on now is described quite calmly as "the sixth great extinction." The fossil record is a pattern of evolution and extinction, with species continuously evolving, flourishing and expiring as naturally as individuals are born, develop and die. Imposed on this hubbub of appearance and disappearance is a series of dramatic happenings: mass disappearances, followed by new beginnings, at least five times in the past 500 million years.

The last of these was 65 million years ago, when a 10-kilometre asteroid whacked into the Yucatan in Mexico. The change now is less dramatic but no less significant. According to some theorists, half of all the creatures with which humans share the planet could be about to steal away into the eternal night, simply because their homes are being destroyed. By man.

The world's dwindling tropical forests could be losing creatures at the rate of 27,000 a year - three creatures an hour - at the most conservative estimate. The precision of these figures is disputed, the truth behind them is not. In the last century, birds and mammals have been disappearing at an average rate of one a year. This is already a thousand times faster than the "background" rate of extinction. It is confirmed by crude counts made by the conservation groups: a tenth of all flowering plants are about to disappear, a tenth of all birds on the planet are seriously endangered, many of the big mammal groups - the cats, in particular - could be about to disappear. But 99 per cent of creation is less than 1mm long. Most of smaller species will be gone before scientists ever find out they were here.

So taxonomy's high command - people at the Smithsonian and the Missouri Botanic Gardens in the US, and the Natural History Museum in London and at Kew - decided to stake out small areas of forest or savannah and simply sample the local life, quick headcounts of this and that species. Such a British project in the Cameroon came to an abrupt end only last year. Scientists had marked out a few hectares of already well-studied forest and begun to catalogue all the creatures in just a limited selection of groups. They gave up. Even within the limits the scientists set, there were simply too many species to count. "They absolutely overwhelmed the resources," says John Lawton, of Imperial College London and president of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. "We could

have carried on, but we would have needed many more taxonomists and systematists."

There's the rub. "The global workforce, considered to number 7,000 systematists, is clearly inadequate given the scale of these tasks," says Stephen Blackmore, keeper of botany at the Natural History Museum. Work done by taxonomists based in London or Washington essentially involves travel to faraway places on budgets that simply don't stretch very far. Good taxonomists don't grow on trees. John Lawton says "Really good taxonomists will be able to identify on sight more than 10,000 species of their chosen group, without having to look anything up."

There is a case for biodiversity: everybody recognises it. A landscape without skylarks or corn cockles is poorer. But creatures disappear because their surroundings change, and those surroundings were maintained for them by other sets of creatures. So biodiversity cannot be managed unless it can be understood, and it cannot be understood unless its components are identified.

BIODIVERSITY is a matter of naked human self-interest. Human economy rests on plants. Crops and their wild relatives have to be understood and conserved and that means the insects that prey on them must also be understood. Plants that provide most medicines - from aspirin for headaches to taxol for breast cancer - have developed the chemicals they possess as a response to their co-evolution with insects. There could be billions of dollars of useful, valuable, exploitable knowledge to be gained from almost unknown creatures in their habitats. Why do barnacles not grow on starfish? Because they secrete a natural anti-fouling paint. Why do arctic fish not freeze? Because they have an antifreeze fluid to keep blood circulating. Last year Cornell scientists calculated that if humans had to pay for the services they received free from nature - pollination, water purification, crop pest control, that sort of thing - the bill would be \$2.9 million million annually. Fellow creatures are a kind of map of creation. "Just knowing how many species there are is like having proper maps of the stars," says John Lawton. "It's exactly the same for a proper science of ecology and evolution and many areas of biology. We need to know how many organisms there are, what they are and where they are."

Sources: (1) Near-extinction of a large, widely-distributed fish, Jill M. Casey and Rason A. Myers, *Science*, July 31, 1996; (2) Sir Robert May, government chief scientific advisor, *Sir Stamford Raffles Lecture, Zoological Society*, June 30, 1996; (3) Counting the creatures of the Serengeti, *Science*, December 19, 1997; (4) *Nature*, January 1, 1998; (5) *Knowing the Earth's Biodiversity*, *Science* October 4, 1996. **Graphics:** Sources: *Science*, March, 1998; *Ethnobotanical approach to drug discovery* by Paul Alan Cox and Michael J. Balick, *Scientific American*, June 1994. *Biodiversity Rising*, Edward O. Wilson, W.W. Norton. **Cartoon:** Glyn Wainor. **Research:** Matthew Keating. Tim Radford is the Guardian's science editor.

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FinanceGuardian

Mandelson heads for EU showdown over BA deal

Chris Barrie

NEW trade and industry secretary Peter Mandelson was last night faced with the prospect of defusing a row between the European Commission and Britain's competition authority over the terms to be imposed on BA as the price of approving its alliance with American Airlines.

In a move certain to intensify the rift between Brussels and Westminster over airline regulation, EU competition commissioner Karel van Miert said yesterday that BA should not be allowed to sell take-off and landing slots at

Heathrow and Gatwick, a flat contradiction to a suggestion made last week by the Office of Fair Trading in advice to Mr Mandelson.

Mr Van Miert insisted that such a sale would contravene a regulation laid down by Europe's council of ministers. This ruling had been confirmed when the full Commission subsequently proposed clearing the BA-AA alliance on condition that the carriers give up 287 weekly slots to ease competition concerns.

Mr Van Miert said sale of the slots could also contravene EU competition rules.

The pronouncement leaves Mr Mandelson facing conflicting advice over what is likely to be by far the most significant regulatory decision of his early days at the trade and industry department.

The decision over the slots, worth millions of pounds to BA, resides with him, although the alliance also needs approval from the US department of transportation.

Robert Ayling, BA chief executive, said last night that the most efficient way of real-allocating scarce resources — such as slots — was to have a market in them by making them tradeable.

Mr Ayling went on to back Mr Mandelson against suggestions that the trade and industry secretary could suffer a conflict of interest by both deciding on the future of BA's alliance and leading the Millennium Dome project to which BA is a substantial contributor.

Mr Ayling said that BA had committed itself to supporting the Dome under the previous government, and noted that Mr Mandelson had taken advice on the matter.

His remarks followed last week's admission that the trade and industry secretary had taken advice from the DTI's senior civil servant on whether it was appropriate for him to be involved in the BA ruling.

The developments came as BA shares fell 34p, or more than 5 per cent, to close at 597p as the City focused on concerns over the airline's passengers yields despite a sharp rise in first-quarter profits.

Excluding the effects of last year's acrimonious strike by cabin staff and a one-off gain on disposals, pre-tax profits rose by 59 per cent to £145 million on turnover 3 per cent higher at £2.3 billion.

Much of the gain was due to the airline's drive to cut costs, a programme worth £500 million now and due to rise to £700 million by 2001. Mr Ayling said the cost-cutting was unrivalled by other European airlines, which were still relying on currency values to protect their positions.

Although it had been "unpleasant", Mr Ayling said he was pleased that BA had tackled the need to revamp its wage structures first as part of an efficiency programme. Now the airline is concentrating on boosting asset values and was negotiating with Boeing and Airbus Industrie over orders for aircraft.

He said competition was driving prices lower as the industry deregulated. But more efficient companies would benefit in the long term.

The airline said its results had been affected by the economic conditions in the UK, where consumer spending is slowing, and the Far East. Mr Ayling said BA was holding its margins in the Far East by changing the mix of services although it was "anyone's guess" whether the region's difficulties had bottomed out.

Notebook

Why rates should come down now



Larry Elliott

IT was D H Lawrence who once said: "Never trust the artist. Trust the tale." And rarely is the dictum more appropriate than when applied to equity markets.

All sorts of reasons can be wheeled out by those analysts seeking to explain why there is nothing in the fundamentals to suggest that we are on the brink of a savage bear market. But the people who actually matter — the fund managers — see things rather differently.

According to Merrill Lynch, the people actually responsible for placing the billions of pounds invested in the financial markets are moving out of equities and property and into gilts and cash. Why? Because they fear that the slowdown in the economy, already taking a toll of corporate profitability, is going to get a lot worse over the coming months.

All the talk of the economy overheating, prevalent in the early summer, has disappeared and been replaced by fears that the economy will hit a brick wall this winter.

No doubt the survey will be shrugged off by stock market bulls as a knee-jerk response by fund managers who like to troop off in gangs, but this would be a serious mistake. Sentiment has not been as gloomy as this since 1980, when Britain was suffering the first of its two recessions under the Conservatives, and there is no shortage of hard evidence to support the downbeat view.

Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, for example, publish a list of eight leading indicators of the economy — including business and consumer confidence, investment plans, profitability, the exchange rate and the monetary/fiscal stance — to predict whether the economy is likely to pick up or slow down. In the UK's case every one of the eight is pointing to a slowdown.

Dresdner Kleinwort Benson's own analysis is that monetary and fiscal policy is tighter now than it was during the recession of the early 1990s, which, given the sharp reduction in inflation, is like using a sledgehammer to crack a nut. The Bank of England will have the chance to explain what it is up to tomorrow when it releases its quarterly inflation report.

Don't expect to read any of this from the Old Lady tomorrow, but here are three predictions. First, the economy will weaken more than anybody is expecting over the next few months, dragging the stock market down. Second, interest rates will start to fall within the next couple of months as the weakness becomes apparent even to the Monetary Policy

Committee. And third, in six months' time the one dissonant note on the MPC — DeAnne Julius — will be vindicated in her call for rates to start coming down now.

Chill easterly

MORE than a year after the start of the Asian financial crisis, the full impact is still being underestimated in the West. Yet the cut-price exports from the Far East are starting to have a considerable dampening effect on corporate profitability, particularly in sectors such as textiles, computer chips and steel.

The last thing European and American companies need is a devaluation of the Chinese yuan, a move which would trigger a second wave of currency collapses across the region. Yet speculation is mounting that that is precisely what may happen over the coming weeks. If the Japanese yen continues to fall against the US dollar.

Amid rumours that black market trading in the yuan is rife in Shanghai, the authorities in China stepped into the foreign exchange to prop up the yuan yesterday. Some analysts believe that a fall in the yen below 150 to the dollar — and it was trading at 146.5 yesterday — would be the final straw for the Chinese.

This is probably wide of the mark. The yen's weakness is certainly causing problems in China's vital export sector, but Beijing wants to use the plaudits it has received from the West for its hard-line anti-devaluation stance to gain full membership of the World Trade Organisation. Of course, there will be a point when the pressure on Beijing becomes intolerable and devaluation will ensue. But, for the time being, it is likely to hold firm.

Playing the slots

GIVEN that BA chief executive Robert Ayling is a key player in the Millennium Dome project, the safe option for the Trade and Industry Secretary Peter Mandelson would be to side with Brussels in the row with the airline over slots at Heathrow. Safe but wrong.

EU commissioner Karel van Miert is arguing that the BA link-up with American Airlines is that the UK carrier should give up the slots without recompense. Given that the slots are valuable assets, BA says that it should be able to sell them at the going rate.

The OPT is backing the company's position, but the final decision lies with Mr Mandelson. One side of BA's balance sheet is affected by a market where competition is ferocious and margins are under constant pressure. It makes little sense to clobber the other side by forcing the company to hand a competitive advantage to its rivals, particularly at a time when the domestic economy is softening.

Cloud on tour operators' horizon

Minister acts to outlaw holiday cover scam

Liz Stuart

THE Government has banned travel agencies and tour operators from insisting that tourists buy travel insurance as part of a package deal or giving discounts to customers who do.

Kin Howells, Minister for Competition and Consumer Affairs, said yesterday that it will also be illegal for a tour operator to withhold supplies of holidays from a travel agent not offering the same extras to customers on all packages.

"Consumers should not be forced to take out insurance which may not be competitively priced... nor should they have to pay more for holidays because travel agents are discouraged by tour operators from offering discounts they would otherwise be prepared to offer," he said.

Policies sold through travel agents can be up to 60 per cent more expensive than those sold by direct insurers. For instance, cover for a two-week break in Europe costs £79.90 per couple from Going Places and Lunn Poly, while a comparable policy costs £66 from Worldwide Travel Insurance Services.

The move follows a consultation process started in December by the then Trade Secretary, Margaret Beckett, after the Monopolies and Mergers Commission had reported on malpractice in the selling of travel cover.

The MMC says commission on insurance earned the leading four travel agents nearly £130 million — more than six times their operating profits from supplying holidays — in 1996.



Paradise or purgatory? ... The beach at Nice yesterday. Mandatory insurance doesn't compensate for inability to find a parasol. PHOTOGRAPH BY LIONEL GIRONNEAU

lies and Merger Commission had reported on malpractice in the selling of travel cover.

The MMC says commission on insurance earned the leading four travel agents nearly £130 million — more than six times their operating profits from supplying holidays — in 1996.

The report also identified the use of "most favoured customer" status, which means some people were offered greater discounts on their holidays, pushing up prices for other consumers. Under the new order, which comes into force in November, this will be banned.

John Bridgeman, the director-general of fair trading, is still in talks with the major travel groups about the other issues raised by the MMC — that consumers are unaware of the ownership links between travel agencies and the tour operators whose holidays they sell.

Ha is talking to Airtrons, which owns Going Places, Thomson Travel, owner of Lunn Poly, and Thomson Tour Operators, and Carlson Leisure Group, whose empire covers AT Mays and Worldchoice.

Last week the tax on travel insurance "through brokers or banks

was increased to 17.5 per cent from 4 per cent to bring it into line with tour operators, typically adding an extra £20 to the cost of annual cover.

Figures from the Insurance Ombudsman, show that 500,000 people claimed the weakness appeared last year.

Prudential promises sales investigation

Tony Levene

THE Prudential pledged last night to launch an investigation into Guardian revelations that it has continued to attempt to mis-sell pensions.

Britain's biggest pension company, which faces an estimated £1.1 billion clean-up bill to compensate past pension mis-selling victims, says it wants to find out what happened in the sales process that led to Guardian investigations being recommended personal pensions that were not best suited to their needs.

In particular, Prudential agents attempted to sell policies that would maximise earnings for both the salesperson and the company and recommended personal pensions that would produce lower value for the purchaser.

In one case, the regular monthly premium policy put forward would have ensured that nearly half of the first year's contributions would

have left the potential purchaser's pension pot to be used by the Prudential in remunerating its salesforce and in other charges rather than being invested for the buyer's benefit. Fees on an alternative Prudential policy would have been around 5 per cent — approximately a tenth as much.

Martin Brownstein, the Prudential head of compliance, said: "We want to see the details so we can see what has happened. Then we shall be in a position to launch an investigation into your allegations which we take very seriously."

Brownstein's role is to ensure that the company's selling process is in accordance with the rules of the watchdog, the Financial Services Authority, and, more widely, with the Financial Services Act.

The Prudential said that its "internal checking system" would have identified any potential pensions mis-selling and prevented them from being processed.

Brownstein said: "We don't believe these sales would have run their full course once our checking procedures had seen the details."

Insurers suggest that the bias shown towards the costlier product stems from the Prudential's remuneration scheme which rewards sales of regular premium plans at a higher level than the same value contribution as a lump sum.

The Guardian's investigations posed as self-employed people with erratic earnings but who had saved up a £3,000 lump sum which they wanted to invest for their retirement years.

Independent pensions experts said the best course for such people is a lump sum pension when their earnings are high enough to afford it.

Adrian Webb at Direct Line said: "The pensions market is crying out for transparency in charges rather than the lure of commission which can still drive salespeople to put the needs of consumers a poor second."

Mayflower's bid eclipses the £210 million offer from bus manufacturer Henrys, backed by Volvo. The Swedish group said yesterday that it intended to buy about 10 per cent of Henrys's shares on the stock market "to reinforce the industrial and commercial co-operation" between the two companies.

Analysts said Volvo was unable to bid directly for Dennis as it already has a 40 per cent share of the UK bus and chassis market and regulatory authorities would probably object to it adding the 42.5 per cent share held by Dennis.

John Simpson, Mayflower's chief executive, hinted that his group would call in the Monopolies and Mergers Commission if Volvo intervened in support of Henrys, but said he hoped a "three-way scrap" would not develop. His aim was to create one of the largest bus makers in Britain with a market capitalisation of £750 million. He said Dennis's operations would "fit like a glove".

"This creates great opportunities for Mayflower to put its renowned body engineering skills together with Dennis's specialist vehicle business and combine our bus-body building operations with their bus-chassis operations to give customers integrated products," he said.

Both groups had a strong presence in Hong Kong and Singapore and Dennis would get a boost from Mayflower's expansion plans in South East Asia and North America. "We couldn't sit back and

let one of our competitors buy Dennis," said Mr Simpson. He added that, if the offer was successful, Dennis would retain its present management and name and there were no plans for cuts in Dennis's 1,800 workforce.

Both Mayflower and Henrys need Dennis to take advantage of the strongly growing US bus market. There, newly privatised bus operators are ordering new fleets to replace those formerly owned by states.

The Dennis board urged its shareholders to take no action on either of the bids. It said it had noted the offer by Mayflower and was seeking clarification from Henrys. Analysts expected Henrys to raise its bid terms but Mr Simpson said Mayflower had the necessary financial muscle if it was necessary to raise its own bid. The Mayflower offer represents a premium of 35.3 per cent to Dennis's share price before the Henrys' offer and a premium of 14.2 per cent on the level before Mayflower expressed an interest.

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Rugby Union

Brinkmanship is taken to the limit for British League

Robert Kitson

AS THE inevitable sceptics gathered on the touchline, those responsible for turning proposals for a British League into something concrete were still oiling the wheels of European rugby's diplomatic machinery yesterday. The next 48 hours should determine whether a grand idea is destined simply to gather dust for 12 months.

Although Brian Baister, the Rugby Football Union's new management board chairman, did sit down with his Welsh counterpart Clive Griffiths at a meeting of the Home Unions' treasurers in London, the WRU coyly insisted that discussions about a British League were not part of the original agenda, saying only that officials "may well see fit to broach the subject, time permitting". The man whose name always crops up on these occasions, the International Board chairman Vernon Pugh, is in Buenos Aires and there was even the sound of silence from the normally vociferous English clubs. With ERC Ltd also waiting until the last moment to nail down the list of participants in this season's European Cup, brinkmanship is being taken to its limits.

Although no one disputes that a British League — a 20-team event has been mooted involving the 14 English Premiership clubs, the top four Welsh clubs and two Scottish "super-districts" — would solve a lot of domestic disputes, the key figures are being asked to take a leap of faith with neighbours with whom, less than a week ago, they were not on speaking terms.

Caution is being shown in Wales. "The subject is certainly one that should be discussed at the appropriate time and with the appropriate people" was the sober message from Griffiths yesterday.

"Time is the enemy, but there does seem to be a refreshing willingness to make progress," a conference call involving the ubiquitous Pugh is pencilled in for today, with the English clubs still under pressure to abandon their EC application challenging the IFB's rules on broadcasting revenue. Unless a compromise can be found there will be no English representation in Europe this season. ERC, meanwhile, has given the Welsh contingent until tomorrow to confirm their entry.

Like a bunch of line-out jumpers hoisted too early, there is a lot of inane hoveing going on. Two players yesterday quit Bristol, the crisis-born Premiership Two club. The Irish international centre Kevin Maggs has signed for the European Cup holders Bath, while the England Under-20 prop Michael Worsley will join Gloucester, who need cover at loose-head for Tony Windo and Trevor Woodman.

refused to confirm the reports, Zisti's agent Greg Keenan said: "Nick was offered a three-year contract and sees the deal as providing long-term security." Zisti will be joined at Bradford next season by Balmalm's promising utility back Michael Withers.

Hunslet are confident of signing Willie Poching, a World Cup forward with Western Samoa in 1995 who has been released by Sydney St George, for the remainder of the First Division season. St Helens have dismissed reports that Ellery Hanley is favourite to take over from Shaun McKee at Knowsley Road. McKee's contract is being renewed at the end of the season.

based their applications on receiving some share of the game's Sky television money, so the SLE clubs have to balance their desire to expand geographically — and for the revenue the extra home matches would generate — with the proportion of their own Sky allocation they would have to sacrifice. The most likely outcome is that they will accept two applications on funding of £500,000 compared with their own £750,000. The consortiums from Cardiff and Gateshead appear to have the soundest credentials.

Bradford Bulls are reported to have signed Nick Zisti, a powerful 25-year-old winger, from the Australian club Cronulla. Although the Bulls

replacement the Focus, by Ford's ambitious team manager Malcolm Wilson and by a new challenge after eight years with Subaru. But it is a step into the unknown for the 1995 world champion.

"It is a bit of a gamble, because the car is brand new, but you've just got to accept that you can't set your sights on the world championship in your first year," said McKee, who is second in this year's championship, only three points off the pace.

McKee's departure makes it almost certain that Richard Burns will rejoin Subaru after two years at Mitsubishi. And if he does agree terms with Subaru, it will leave him as the team's No. 1 driver and a favourite for next year's title.

Motor Sport

McRae's \$10m transfer clears way for Burns

David Williams

COLIN MCRAE yesterday signed a two-year, \$10 million (£6.3 million) contract with Ford, but the process has all but ruled himself out of the 1999 world rally championship.

The Scot has been won over by a new car, the Escort's replacement the Focus, by Ford's ambitious team manager Malcolm Wilson and by a new challenge after eight years with Subaru. But it is a step into the unknown for the 1995 world champion.

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Bath runners and riders

Chris Hawkins

Left-handed track, relatively flat, of 18m with 4 ft turn. Straight six furlongs. Seven days winners: 2.00 Booter, 2.30 Churcho, 3.00 Sister Parvix. Milestones: 2.30 Polakovic, 2.30 Polakovic, 2.30 Polakovic. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. Jumps.

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Off the mark... Frankie Dettori steers the well-backed Bedayat Farah (left) to an easy victory in the mile maiden

PHOTOGRAPH: JULIAN HERBERT

Caballero finds his feet at last

Chris Hawkins sees a top trainer back in cheerful mood as his winning run continues

LIVE Brittain reckons he only has to shake the trees for potential top-class horses to drop into his arms and it was no surprise to hear his renowned super-opinist talking in terms of Group One contests for Caballero after his colt had won the Copenhagen Conditions Stakes at Windsor yesterday.

It was at the fourth time, asking that Caballero finally got off the mark but this was no fault of his own according to Brittain.

"Like a lot of my horses he has been sick and was below par when I ran him in the Coventry Stakes at Royal Ascot," explained the trainer. "But he was obviously hurting there — we found he was suffering from a dust allergy — and it was important for his confidence that he had an easy race today."

"I was pretty sure he'd win when taking a Group One at Gelsenkirchen in Germany on Sunday."

Caballero was the second leg of a short-price double for Dettori, who had little more than a steering job on John Gosden's 2-5 chance Bedayat Farah in the Salamanca Maiden Stakes.

Henry Cecil ran two in this and most forecast backers would have included Kieren Fallon's mount Vellum (7-2 second favourite), who was caught in the final strides for second by stable companion Epidaurus (16-1), ridden by Willie Ryan.

Some racegoers thought Fallon might have been guilty of dropping his hands on Vellum but examination of the replay revealed that it was only after he had been headed by Epidaurus in the final 50 yards that he eased off.

Nerys Duffield, who trains at Seaton in Devon, saddled only her fifth winner of the season when Smithey produced a decisive turn of foot to power clear of Dolly Day Dream in the Wellington Fillies' Nursery.

Smithey, a daughter of

Tenby, is best when held up for a late run and will try to make such tactics pay in Ireland on August 28 when she will be sent over to the £150,000 Tattersalls Breeders Stakes at The Curragh.

Prizemoney here goes down to 10th place and Mrs Duffield is hoping to do better than last year when her Cape Lane just missed out in finishing 11th.

Chris Scott, a fish merchant from Bristol, missed seeing the 49's Handicap but it was not work which kept him away.

A gin and tonic and swimming pool in Portugal took precedence for Scott, who phoned his trainer Malcolm Saunders before racing to explain his absence and find out whether his gelding was fancied.

Saunders, not exactly brimming with confidence, marked his card by telling him that Warring was "one of six that could win the race."

Warring was providing his unsung sire Warrshan with a double after Browning had earlier won the Royal Bank of Scotland Handicap.

Lukaniuk, the amateur jockey, was banned for a further two days by the Jockey Club stewards yesterday — making six in all — when the trainer Malcolm Saunders before racing to explain his absence and find out whether his gelding was fancied.

Michael Stone has ruled the 8-1 shot Donnie Classic out of next week's Tote Ebor at York because of an infection in the colt's near hind joint.

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COMMENTARY RESULTS

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BATH	772	782

ALL COURSES COMMENTARY 0891 222 780
ALL COURSES RESULTS 0891 222 790

CALLS COST 50P PER MIN AT ALL TIMES. THIS PLUS ANOTHER 10P PER MIN. LONDON EGM APL.

The Guardian **INTERACTIVE**

Results

WINDSOR
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1136th, 1137th, 1138th, 1139th, 1140th, 1141st, 1142nd, 1143rd, 1144th, 1145th, 1146th, 1147th, 1148th, 1149th, 1150th, 1151st, 1152

Victory at Headingley



The final act... Darren Gough's appeal for lbw against South Africa's No. 11 Makhaya Ntini is upheld by Javed Akhtar, and England wrap it up by 23 runs

ADRIAN MURFELL

Crowd reflects a nation's delight

Paul Weaver on the day they turned out in their thousands in Leeds to share that winning feeling

THE really terrific thing was the crowd, 10,000 of them, cheering over Headingley's green acres when it was all over, shouting, waving, rejoicing, embracing the stranger of triumph, calling for their heroes and waving the flag of St George.

They might have made all the effort to get there for just two balls. As it was it lasted 28 minutes. But after 12 long years without a win in a serious series they had been starved of celebration; they were ravenous. If patriotism is truly the last resort of the scoundrel, then Yorkshire was full of scoundrels yesterday.

But it was not only at Leeds. All over the country they were turning on televisions and radios, and asking: "Have you heard the Test score?" which no one is supposed to ask any more because everyone has been telling us that cricket is dead on its feet.

Yesterday was a glorious reaffirmation of the summer

game and a reminder of the importance of a winning side. If England had lost... well, it is too awful to contemplate. "I thought there would be a fair crowd but I didn't think it would be that big," said the victorious Gaffer afterwards, shaking his head. "A couple of the lads who had been warming up outside came back and told us the crowd was big. I just told everyone to stay cool and focused."

In the dressing-room, meanwhile, the atmosphere was strangely muted. Admittedly the TV camera to such an essentially private retreat has rarely worked. Players grinned, trying to look relieved and tired when they really wanted to do something a little more on the wild side. Lord MacLaurin pottered around looking for a plastic beaker for the champagne. He probably wanted to scream, too.

David Graveney, David Lloyd and all the other important people came into frame but they did not appear to be having a particularly good time. That would come later.

We always knew there was talent in this England team. But we did not know whether they were capable of competing, mentally, against one of the toughest, most combative of sides. Certainly, South Africa did not deserve to lose the series. Marginally, they may

even be the better side. But so often England have failed to win what they have deserved. Alec Stewart added: "To have beaten a side that I rate as one of the top three in world cricket, coming back from 1-0 down, shows the spirit and the strength of the team. And don't forget the important players who were not here. We've talked to Croft (Robert Croft),

who kept us in the series at Old Trafford, and we've left a 20-minute message on Graham Thorpe's answering machine. "I have played 30-odd Tests. Some of us have been together for between five and 10 years. We have been through some difficult times. Hopefully this will be the start of some good times. But we have to build on this. And the Ashes series in

Australia is what we must work towards." Hansie Cronje, the South Africa captain, agreed that the middle of the Manchester Test marked the turning point. "The batting of Atherton and Stewart took that chance of winning away, and the bowling of the three pacemen kept them in the series. England came back but we allowed

them to come back. We have taken a step backwards." The match had an unhappy ending for the man who Javed Akhtar when it was revealed that he did not fully understand the law relating to the extra half-hour, which South Africa had wanted to play on Sunday evening. The crowd yesterday did not care much about that.

Test match averages

ENGLAND									
Batting	M	I	No	Runs	HS	Ave	100	50	C
A J Stewart	5	10	1	465	103	54.77	1	3	2
A C Gough	5	10	1	465	103	54.77	1	3	2
A J Stewart	5	10	1	465	103	54.77	1	3	2
A C Gough	5	10	1	465	103	54.77	1	3	2
A J Stewart	5	10	1	465	103	54.77	1	3	2
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A J Stewart	5	10	1	465	103	54.77	1	3	2
A C Gough	5	10	1	465	103	54.77	1	3	2

ENGLAND									
Bowling	Overs	M	Runs	Wkts	Ave	SW	10W	Best	Match
A C Gough	26.3	55	492	24	20.50	3	1	5-42	5-42
A J Stewart	13.5	28	389	17	22.82	1	1	4-43	4-43
A C Gough	17.4	29	573	18	31.83	2	0	6-11	6-11
A J Stewart	22	2	66	2	33.00	0	0	2-26	2-26
A C Gough	10	105	2	32.50	0	0	0	1-30	1-30
A J Stewart	36	7	106	1	106.00	0	0	1-10	1-10
A C Gough	36	4	112	0	112.00	0	0	1-30	1-30
A J Stewart	67	20	211	0	10.55	0	0	0-0	0-0
A C Gough	67	20	211	0	10.55	0	0	0-0	0-0
A J Stewart	25	3	100	0	33.33	0	0	0-0	0-0

SOUTH AFRICA									
Batting	M	I	No	Runs	HS	Ave	100	50	C
M Ntini	5	10	1	108	57	54.00	1	4	2
M Ntini	5	10	1	108	57	54.00	1	4	2
M Ntini	5	10	1	108	57	54.00	1	4	2
M Ntini	5	10	1	108	57	54.00	1	4	2
M Ntini	5	10	1	108	57	54.00	1	4	2
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M Ntini	5	10	1	108	57	54.00	1	4	2
M Ntini	5	10	1	108	57	54.00	1	4	2
M Ntini	5	10	1	108	57	54.00	1	4	2

SOUTH AFRICA									
Bowling	Overs	M	Runs	Wkts	Ave	SW	10W	Best	Match
A A Donald	24.2	62	553	38	14.58	4	0	6-39	6-39
A A Donald	24.2	62	553	38	14.58	4	0	6-39	6-39
A A Donald	24.2	62	553	38	14.58	4	0	6-39	6-39
A A Donald	24.2	62	553	38	14.58	4	0	6-39	6-39
A A Donald	24.2	62	553	38	14.58	4	0	6-39	6-39
A A Donald	24.2	62	553	38	14.58	4	0	6-39	6-39
A A Donald	24.2	62	553	38	14.58	4	0	6-39	6-39
A A Donald	24.2	62	553	38	14.58	4	0	6-39	6-39
A A Donald	24.2	62	553	38	14.58	4	0	6-39	6-39
A A Donald	24.2	62	553	38	14.58	4	0	6-39	6-39

NatWest Trophy semi-final: Hampshire v Lancashire

Hampshire hoping to raise a toast to their heady cocktail

Peter Hanlon on a bubbly personality from down under enjoying a bit of a lark

WITH Sri Lankan parents, a birth certificate stamped London, a CV that lists schooling in Melbourne and Perth, a Christian name from Greece and a surname that could be a Spanish dance craze, Dimitri Mascarenhas is cricket's very own cocktail. As Middlesex discovered at Lord's in last month's quarter-final, he can be a heady mix.

The Hampshire coach Tim Tremlett says Mascarenhas adds "a bit of Australian grit" to the southern county. A bit of flair, too. Coming to the crease with four of Hampshire's 60 overs remaining and a respectable but far from daunting 229 on the board, Mascarenhas played 29 off 12 balls. When he walked back up the pavilion steps, his 11

minutes' batting had helped leave the home team needing 296 for victory: it was beyond them within the half-hour.

By his bloodlines alone Mascarenhas is different. Throw in the gold rings dangling from each ear, the sparkling eyes, bubbling personality and the way he bounces around in the field like a kid on a first date, and one has anything but a run-of-the-mill county pro.

Being 20 and in only his third season on the county treadmill no doubt helps, but he gives the impression that this cricket lark could keep him smiling for ever.

The family moved from London to Melbourne when Dimitri was a toddler, and he spent his early childhood playing backyard cricket with

his two brothers and standing on the terrace cheering his Australian Rules team Collingwood, the love 'em or loathe 'em Manchester United of the down under code. Half-way through his first year of secondary school the family crossed the country to Perth, where his father owns two McDonald's franchises.

It was there that the former Hampshire batsman Paul Terry, playing for Melville in West Australia grade cricket, spotted Mascarenhas's talent with the ball and alerted the county's hierarchy. Two seasons ago, in his county debut against Glamorgan, he took six for 88. His fortunes tapered last year to the tune of only six first-team appearances, but this season he has played every game, taking 21 wickets at just over 25.

A small bat hangs from a gold chain around his neck, perhaps betraying which discipline he would bow to

make his stronger suit. Certainly the charm is doing no harm; he warmed up for today's game with 65 against Kent on Sunday.

"Paul [Terry] has been a great help back home on that front," Mascarenhas says. As for a preference, he'll settle for a bob each way: "I hope to be a genuine all-rounder, one that people can say bats as well as he bowls and bowls as well as he bats."

After Mike Kasprovic's late back-down from his appointment as overseas professional, an Australian twang might not have been the most welcome sound at Northlands Road this season.

Mascarenhas laughs that off, and is reaping the benefits of having the West Indies fast bowler Nixon McLean as a team-mate. "He just loves to help you, always offering to bowl at you, but for you, he's just been fantastic."

He is enjoying life in South-

ampton and the graduation of contemporaries such as Alex Morris in a team not short on thirtysomethings makes the place feel more like home. Robin Smith has a mixed bag at his disposal, but they are tight-knit and each wicket against Middlesex was celebrated with a team huddle.

On spirit alone Lancashire will find them tough today.

Mascarenhas is coy about his heroics against Middlesex, saying it was "a good situation to go in. You really just hit and hope for the best". Justin Langer, at least for now a more celebrated West Australian export, would vouch that "the best" was very good indeed.

An interesting choice to bowl the final overs, Langer at one stage despatched a third baller to reinforce the top-side boundary, only to see the next ball disappear over cover for six. "I've played against Justin at home and know him pretty well," said Mascarenhas, who doubled the dose by dismissing Langer later.

Come September, Mascarenhas will return to the long beaches and easy pace of Perth to play alongside his two brothers at Melville; the youngest, Shannon, is spending this summer on the Durham league roster.

Mascarenhas will be back next April trying to take another step, and knows that if he is good enough the time will come when he has to choose in which country — England, Australia or even Sri Lanka — his feet land.

"I suppose at some stage I'll have to make a call, but at the moment I just can't say who. I'm happy just to play along."

Mindful of the tug-of-war that developed a couple of seasons ago over Queensland's young Birmingham-born tyro Andrew Symonds, and the fact that Symonds has hardly made a run since pinning his hopes on Australia, that may be a wise move.

The small matter of cutting it on the county circuit is one of many bridges to cross before Mascarenhas can be dubbed the "new Botham", the "new Waugh" or maybe the "new Jayasuriya". But one has the feeling he will have some fun along the way.

ONE fast bowler, Allan Donald, yesterday decided against a rest after his Test-match exertions for South Africa, while another, Waqar Younis, was ruled out of the remainder of Glamorgan's season with an elbow injury.

Donald was told by South Africa's management that, because of his troublesome heel, he could miss the triangular one-day series against England and Sri Lanka starting on Friday. But Donald said he was looking forward to the first match against Sri Lanka at Trent Bridge.

Waqar has not played since taking four for 46 in the NatWest Trophy tie against Bedfordshire on June 24. The Pakistani was told after a scan that a short rest would cure the injury, but a further examination has revealed it will not heal in time for him to play again this season.

Donald plays on but Waqar elbowed out

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Casualties of war.

Derbyshire, Lancashire, Hampshire and Leicestershire begin the final push today for the NatWest Trophy, a contest that has seen the fall of many a county.



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Hampshire's bright new hope, page 14

The keeper of Newcastle's fresh image, page 15
Henman hot on Rusedski's heels, page 15

SportsGuardian

Twelve barren years finally end at Headingley

England v South Africa: fifth Cornhill Test, final day

Victorious England break the mould

David Hopps sees Gough and Fraser wrap up the series as South Africa are sent packing in 28 minutes

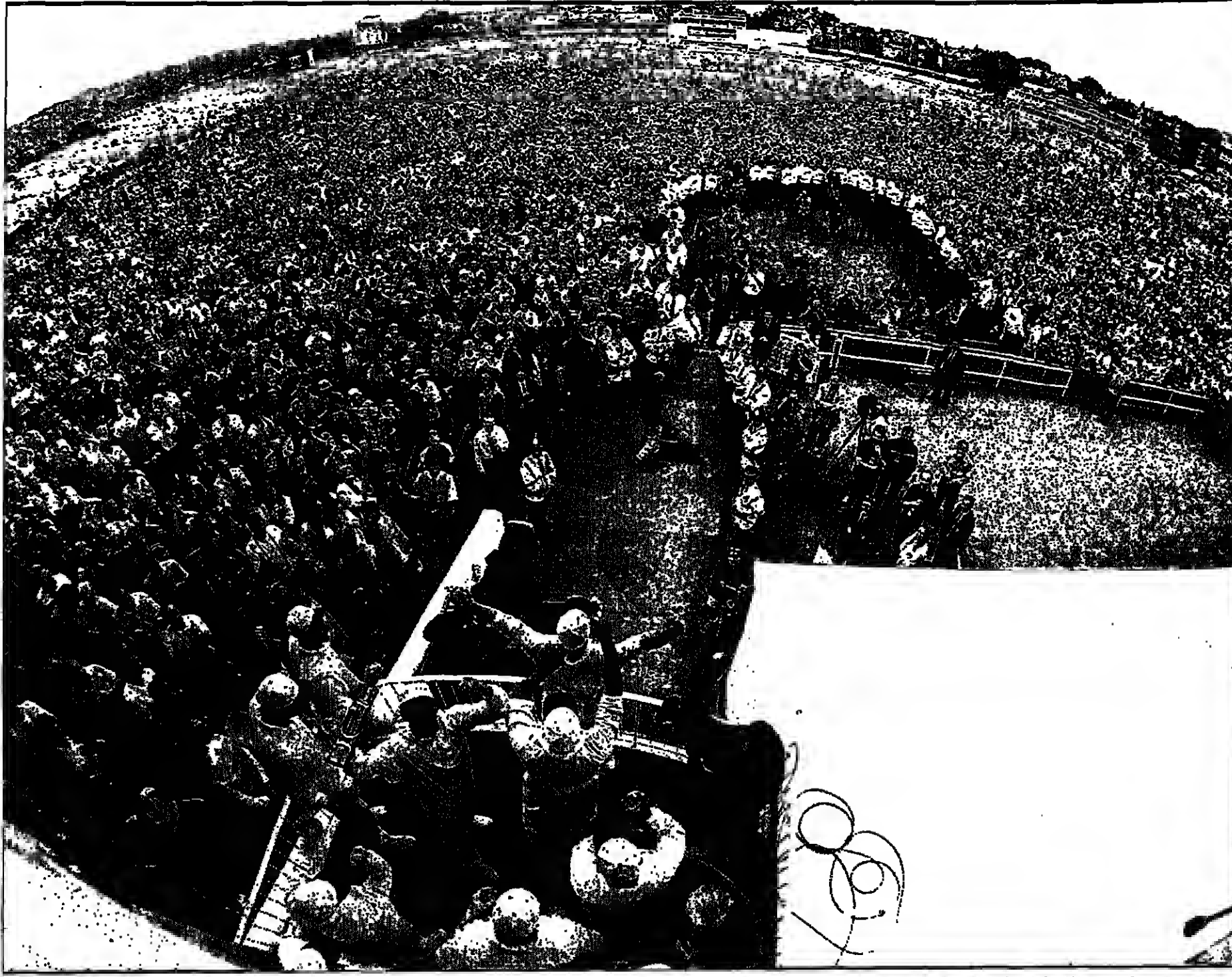
FOR once nobody can misrepresent England's cricketers as little better than a national joke. For once nobody can superficially pronounce that Test cricket in England has already entered its death throes. For once, and it is quite a turn-up to be able to declare it, the England cricket team can declare themselves to be winners.

Twelve years since an England win in a major series: that grating statistic had gathered strength all summer. Well, today it is little more than 12 hours ago, and for a team who have finally freed themselves from the inadequacies of the past, most of those will have been spent in a state of considerable intoxication.

"A little disdain is not amiss; a little scorn is alluring." So wrote William Congreve in *The Way of the World* nearly 300 years ago. That has been the way of the world for English cricket for too long; briefly encouraging, often inept, a delightful invitation to ridicule. In its way, so very English.

That perception has been weakened, if not yet reversed, because England, with their deplorable record on tour, must go to Australia this winter. And as Hansie Cronje, South Africa's captain, pointed out: "It is winning away from home that really boosts your reputation."

But it took 28 minutes yesterday to make a start. South Africa, entering the final day at 185 for eight, were dismissed for 195, leaving England victors by 23 runs. Angus Fraser had Allan Donald caught at the wicket from the merest sliver of an outside edge, and Darren Gough completed his best Test figures, six for 42, by having Mahabir Ntini bowled. Ntini, who had faced only one ball all summer, and that against Ireland, was a perfect No. 11 when there was a Test to be won.



Panorama of victory... Alec Stewart, trophy in hand, and Darren Gough, arms outstretched, share the glorious moment with England colleagues and Headingley crowd. ADRIAN MURFELL

Alec Stewart, whose appointment to the captaincy in the spring was deemed to be a stopgap, will deserve the recognition he receives.

Stewart brushes aside excuses and soft thinking as he brushes dust from his shoes. His conviction that English cricket must toughen up is hardly a unique insight. It is shared by the collection of senior players — Mike Atherton, Nasser Hussain, Graham Thorpe, Fraser and Gough — who have committed them-

selves so intensively to breaking the mould. What Stewart has done is draw the "bottom line" in a forceful fashion.

To emphasise, however, that England's advancement has been a team effort, one only has to consider the turning point in the series. In the third Test at Old Trafford, South Africa led by 389 runs on first innings and with nearly two days remaining looked certain to go 2-0 up in the series. Then, with World Cup football monopolising at-

tentions, Test cricket seemed almost inconsequential. The recovery was begun by Atherton and Stewart, captains past and present, both aware that another England crisis loomed. Had either fallen cheaply then, this summer would have ended with the usual bout of recommitment. Instead they remained in a stand of 226, and the following day Robert Croft's unbeaten 37 in three hours scraped a draw.

Croft was left out of the Headingley squad, but he received a mobile phone call from the England dressing-room yesterday only minutes after their victory. "We sang him a little song," said Stewart. "We didn't want to forget him." It was a small but important touch, which spoke volumes for England's present morale.

Consistency will take a little longer. English cricket remains as mercurial as ever — this fluctuating Test was in many ways a microcosm of the ups and downs of the past 12

years — but at least it is learning how to take a punch on the chin and stay on its feet.

If Stewart was assisted by a past captain, Atherton, at Old Trafford, Headingley provided another symbolic moment in the shape of Hussain, who had been the only other serious candidate for the captaincy.

This is an impatient age, weaned on instant entertainment, but England won a Test series because a man toiled for more than seven hours for 94, a batsman, more to the point,

who was once dismissed as a chancy but who has worked tirelessly for the past five years to prove otherwise.

When Hussain was dismissed on Sunday he trailed from the field, head bowed, and punched the boundary rail in distress not at a lost Test hundred but that he might not have carried the job through. Thanks to the dependability of Fraser and yes, these days, the dependability of Gough, too, he had done enough.

Atherton, England's Man of the Series, had visited hospital before play, because of stomach trouble, and arrived at the ground by taxi, rushing across the football ground to arrive just as the first bottle of champagne was being uncorked.

Later he was repeatedly asked if he was frustrated that England had not won a major series under his captaincy. He invariably looked as if he did not quite grasp the question. A good thing too. Team England, yesterday, did not seem just a glib phrase.

Final scoreboard

England	First innings	Second innings
M A Atherton	119	37
N Hussain	10	1
A J Stewart	26	36
M R Flannery	18	25
G A Hick	21	94
A Flintoff	0	1
D Gough	24	4
S M Maitland	2	10
A R C Fraser	2	5
Extras	21	27

Total (32.3 overs) 230
Fall of wickets: 25, 55, 110, 161, 185, 195, 200, 213.
Bowling: Gough 20.3-4-44-3; Pollock 24-6-61-2; Ntini 21-6-75-4; Kallis 9-4-30-0; McMillan 9-0-24-0.

South Africa	First innings	Second innings
G Kirsten	8	3
G F J Liebenberg	21	6
J H Kallis	40	0
D J Cullinan	27	0
"W J Cronje	27	0
J N Rhodes	33	88
S M Maitland	7	24
S M Pollock	7	24
M V Boucher	6	4
A A Donald	0	4
M Ntini	0	0
Extras	21	0

Total (30.3 overs) 230
Fall of wickets: 17, 30, 55, 120, 163, 184, 207, 242, 242.
Bowling: Gough 24.3-7-58-3; Fraser 25-10-42-5; Cork 21-5-72-2; Flintoff 15-4-3-0; Kallis 15-6-31-0; Cullinan 9-4-23-0.

England	First innings	Second innings
M A Atherton	37	1
N Hussain	1	26
A J Stewart	36	25
M R Flannery	18	94
G A Hick	21	1
A Flintoff	0	1
D Gough	24	4
S M Maitland	2	10
A R C Fraser	2	5
Extras	21	27

Total (30.3 overs) 230
Fall of wickets: 2, 81, 143, 200, 208, 207, 207, 228, 235.
Bowling: Pollock 25-14-53-5; Donald 22-9-71-2; McMillan 11-0-22-0; Ntini 15-4-3-0; Kallis 15-6-31-0; Cullinan 9-4-23-0.

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England won by 23 runs.
England won by 23 runs.

The nation has to learn how to party again



Jim White

A MONTH on from half of France fetching up in the Champs Elysees to glory in national triumph, Headingley was packed yesterday, 11,000 people cramming in for what might conceivably have been only two balls' worth of Test cricket.

Was this not further proof of a nation eager to be there, to sample something, anything, of success at games? A country desperate to revel in the shared pride that can be achieved these days solely in the sporting arena? Or was it more to do with the fact that admission to the ground was

free and the game was taking place in Yorkshire?

Whatever, the crowd was only there because of Alec Stewart's insistence that the thing should not be ended the evening before, to the considerable chagrin of those who had actually paid to watch the match.

As it turned out, Stewart's decision was sounder than some of his choices on winning the toss this series. After a night's sleep Angus Fraser, who had looked a carthorse in need of a vet around Sunday tea-time, came bounding in with an extra jaunt to his step. Or at least what passes for jaunt in Gue's domain: shoulders sunk, head down, legs plodding, face a mask of misery, as if he were personally responsible for the entire national debt.

Darren Gough, too, had obviously spent the night regrouping the most important muscles in his armoury: after a long gargle in honey and warm water his larynx was prepared and ready to give it that extra yelp for his country.

His appeal for the final wicket, so loud it could have been heard in Lancashire, showed a shouter right back at the top of his form.

As it transpired, no one in Headingley would have begrudged seeing precious little cricket and instead spending most of their free time watching a presentation ceremony elongated way beyond its natural length (something, you felt, more to do with the needs of television schedulers than any sense of occasion); England, after all, had won.

And with triumph came all sorts of new issues for English cricket. No one was quite sure what to do in the circumstances: we were looking at a ground crammed with victory virgins.

"There are youngsters here who have never seen an England victory," said Richie Benaud on the television commentary. Either Benaud was exhibiting even deeper levels of irony than is his custom or it was a coincidence that the camera at that point panned in on a man well over 35.

David Lloyd, too, was clearly out of celebration practice: Bumble apparently fumbled badly when it came to opening the post-win trophy in the home dressing-room. A few afterwards in the nets with Roo Atkinson will be necessary to bring him up to speed should Ashes parties be in order.

AND then there was the series winners' cheque, handed over to Stewart. It was made out to "The England Cricket Team" and was worth a muscular £200,000. But England captains are not really versed in the etiquette involved in such spoils of victory. Was everyone to get equal dimes? Or would it be split according to performance across the series, with Michael Atherton trousering enough to buy a couple of new Mercedes while Graeme Hick and Ian Salisbury took home £250 between them?

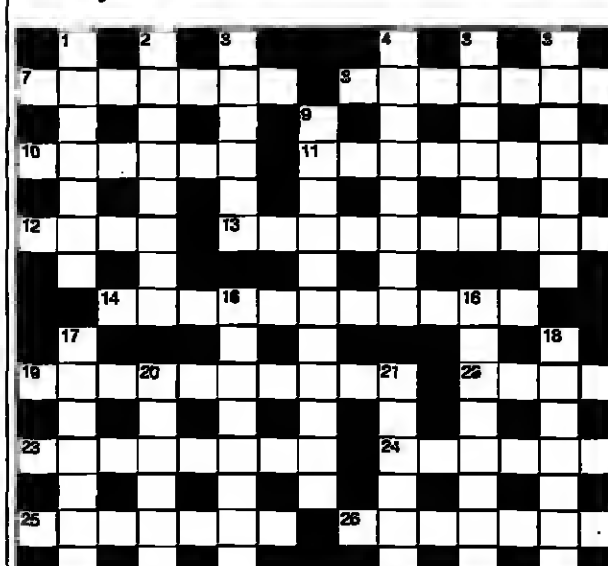
It is said by those used to such things that victory becomes a habit. England supporters will fervently be hoping it is true in this instance, with the tour of Australia moving into view faster than an Allan Donald bouncer and starting around the time of the second round of the Worthington Cup. In truth this looks an England team — but don't say it too loud — capable of achieving a roll.

With the emergence in this series of Mark Butcher, named Man of the Match here, though many South Africans will have felt the most significant contribution to England's victory came from umpire Javed Akhtar's index finger — England now have five batsmen of international stature. Six, if Graham Thorpe returns from his operation anything like his old self.

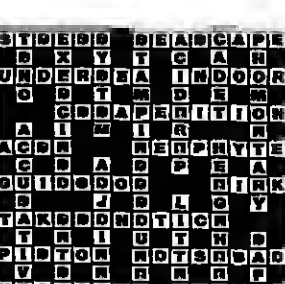
And should Fraser, Gough and Dominic Cork remain injury-free for an entire series, Stewart may well return with the urn after Christmas. In which case you could expect more than a few Yorkshiremen to turn up at any reception to watch the boys returning with that prize. Even if an admission fee were charged for the privilege.

Guardian Crossword No 21,350

Set by Rover



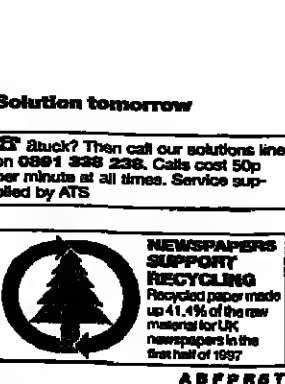
- Across**
- Strip mill is bored (7)
 - "Mr Steel" — working foundryman (7)
 - Dance garment (6)
 - Cook in waxy water (6)
 - Brighton's calaboose (4)
 - Blankets, not pyjamas (10)
 - Where "green" investors hold their nerve? (6,5)
 - Centre for coarse fishing on the Isle of Wight? (10)
 - Bird which nests in Southern England (4)
 - Its choir could be famous (6)
 - Experience the Spanish light (6)
 - Boom on channel (7)
 - They lend and borrow certain horses (7)
- Down**
- Hard times for scaffolders by sound of it (7)
 - Without us rogue pigs take a run (6)
 - Drink in sailor's circle (6)
 - It's fine when it's rolled (6)
 - Filmsy cut (6)
 - Any decent restaurant provides for strikers (7)
 - Stern's bow? Nonsense! (11)
 - Tell queen in drag act (8)
 - Provide for good souvenir (8)
 - Apprentice jumping Aintree (7)
 - Blubbering like a harpooned whale? (2,5)
 - It's not half common, variety programme on TV (6)
 - Peter worried about a show again (6)



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NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

For now, universities are reaping the benefits of exploiting new areas of business but as competition increases, market forces may dictate that more areas of academic life are geared towards satisfying the demands of consumers, including fee-paying students. Brendan Montague looks at the down side of having campuses for hire

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